California GARDEN

May/June 2011 Volume 102 No. 3 $4.00

SDFA Tour Preview: Coronado's Garden Jewels

Plus: Edible Edens

- Ivette Soler: Edibles With Curb Appeal
- Aenne Carver: Hot Herbs of Summer
- Judy Wigand: Ornamental Herb Garden

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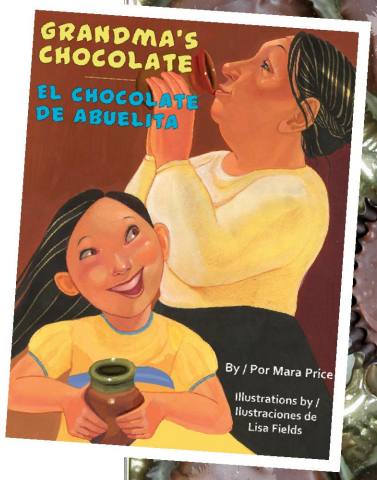

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California GARDEN

THE MAGAZINE FOR HANDS-ON GARDENERS AND FLORAL DESIGNERS
May/June 2011, Volume 102, Number 3

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PUBLICATION STAFF

EXECUTIVE EDITOR
Mary James

ASSOCIATE EDITORS
Nancy Carol Carter
Aenne Carver

LIBRARIAN
Jean C. Hughes

CONTRIBUTORS
Nancy Carol Carter, Aenne Carver, Barbara P. Clark, Meredith French, Theodora Gurns, Kathy Jones, Vincent Lazaneo, Ivette Soler, Denise Thompson, Judy Wigand, Constance Whitney, Christie Wright

COPY EDITOR
Bonnie Gebhardt

ART DIRECTOR
Rachel Cobb

ADVERTISING
Kay Harry

RENEWALS
Lisa Prindle
membership@sdfloral.org

EDITORIAL BOARD
Nancy Carol Carter, Aenne Carver, Bonnie Gebhardt, Kay Harry, Mary James, Amy Wood

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Now is the Time contributors

On the Cover: Eight historic home gardens in Coronado, like this one, are featured on SDFA's annual garden tour. Photo by Meredith French

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Arrangers Guild Chair: Sharon Lowry
Headquarters: Casa del Prado, Room #105, Balboa Park, 619-232-5762
Hours: Monday-Friday, 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
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President's Letter

In this "city of gardens," there are many garden tours to enjoy every spring. This year is no exception as you could see from the garden tour roundup in the last issue of *California Garden*. Among the annual garden tours is the one presented by the San Diego Floral Association. Over the years, Floral's tour has stood out in this crowded field as the county's only historic garden tour.

Since the days of Kate Sessions in the early 1900s, gardeners here have made great strides in the development of climate friendly gardens for our uniquely accommodating environment. We are grateful for the abundance they have brought us. Still it is endlessly interesting to explore gardens planned decades ago as San Diegans learned what wonderful landscapes could be created here. Luckily some of these gardens still exist for us to savor.

This year we look forward to taking you behind garden gates in Coronado on May 14, again to enjoy gardens there with a historic flair. These garden jewels are a bridge to the past, either as landscapes around historic homes, under trees planted by Kate Sessions or from a plan created long ago.

Do enjoy garden tours in abundance this spring, but do not miss SDFA's Coronado tour that will add the richness of San Diego history to your spring experience. Take some time to read the tour article in this issue that previews the sparkle of "The Garden Jewels of the Crown City." Remember that this is our major fundraiser of the year and invite your friends to join you in enjoying this one-of-a-kind tour. Garden tour tickets are available at www.sdfloral.org.

See you there!

Sandra N. Dysart

Sandra Dysart, President

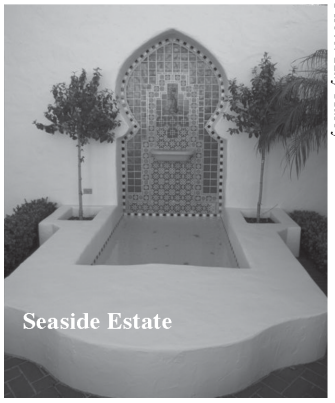

Photo: Kay Harry

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SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION

June 21 Meeting

Floral Design Talk and Demonstration by Diane Citrowske

"Armatures: Exploring Natural Mechanics for Contemporary Floral Design" is the topic of a talk and demonstration by Diane L. Citrowske at the June 21 meeting of the San Diego Floral Association.

The evening meeting begins at 6:00 p.m. with a catered dinner on the patio of Casa del Prado. The dinner is $15 per person and can be reserved by calling the SDFA office at 619-232-5762.

The program begins at 7:00 p.m.

With more than 28 years of experience in the Floral Industry, Diane Citrowske is currently an instructor with the Ornamental Horticulture Department at Cuyamaca College, and UCSD Extension for Summer Session 2011.

As a member of the American Institute of Floral Design since 1989, she is an advocate for continuing education and professionalism in the floral industry. Sharing her passion for floral design, she teaches at all skill levels in casual, business, academic and vocational settings.

With a B. A. degree in Industrial Art from San Diego State University, Diane's academic studies of plastic fabrication and metalworking give her an in-depth appreciation for the integrity of structure and mechanics. She explores and creates in elements of texture, form and color, from inorganic materials to organic compositions.

Formerly the senior designer at Adelaide's in La Jolla, Diane stays current with the latest trends in floral design, both traditional and contemporary, with a distinct emphasis on European techniques. Most recently she participated in Art Alive at the San Diego Museum of Art.

Please put this wonderful meeting on your calendar. It is our final meeting and presentation for the current fiscal year. I look forward to seeing you there. – *Christie Wright*

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Clarification:

In the January/February issue, an article called "An Historic Garden Unearthed" about the restoration of a Kate Sessions' garden at Sandra Phelps' home in Bankers' Hill should have said Randy Laurie of Laurie's Landscaping repaired parts of the retaining walls and rebuilt some sections. Since the original walkways had virtually disappeared, it is not known whether they were simply earthen paths, or earth lined with stones in the Arts & Crafts tradition. To achieve permanence and to preserve Sessions' winding pathways, Phelps elected to have the walkways reconstructed with the same or similar stones as were used in the garden's original retaining walls. Laurie determined placement of the paths based on remaining walls and a 1933 photograph. In addition, Phelps did not confer with Nancy Carol Carter, an expert on Sessions, on this project.

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Hot Hot Horseradish

The 2011 Herb of the Year has Roots in History, Gardens and Bold Kitchens

By Aenne Carver

Creamed, pickled, or freshly grated, horseradish explodes in your mouth. Eating horseradish opens your sinuses and roars up the back of your throat. Nicknamed sting nose, this herb packs a historical and culinary punch.

Horseradish (*Armoracia rusticana* syn. *Cochlearia armoracia*) has been cultivated for more than 3,000 years. In fact, in medieval times, people regarded horseradish as an aphrodisiac and a cure-all herb. Infusions of horseradish were used to treat toothaches, coughs, gout, rheumatism and more. In the Bible, horseradish is one of the five bitter herbs and it continues to be served at Passover. Today, horseradish is used in massage therapy to alleviate muscle soreness and to clear up chest congestion.

In the garden, expect this pungent perennial to have fleshy roots, long-lobed leaves and clusters of white flowers. The roots are said to resemble a horse, but only if you have an excellent imagination. Though horseradish is publicized as a nondescript plant, the variegated variety (*Armoracia rusticana* 'Variegata') is surprisingly stunning.

To grow this herb, plant it in the early spring, in rich, loose soil and full sun. Unfortunately, horseradish is almost impossible to grow from seed. Root cuttings (sometimes called sets) are available in nurseries in fall and early spring. Small plants and root cuttings can be ordered on the Internet inexpensively. Several companies offer roots for $2.50 and plants for $4. However, there often is a minimum order of four to ten plants and a fee for shipping. So, if you opt for the Internet route, order a quantity and split them with gardening friends.

Like carrots, horseradish roots become twisted and malformed in rocky or shallow soil. To avoid this, double dig the planting area, or plant roots in a container where you can control the soil. After preparation of the soil, dig a hole deep enough to hold the length of the root cutting. Then, hold the root upright and back fill until all but the tip or crown is covered.

Horseradish spreads vigorously once established. To prevent an invasion, grow horseradish in a large container. Alternatively, plant horseradish in a bottomless, plastic pot placed into the garden soil. This keeps horseradish in check, yet allows for good drainage.

As soon as new growth begins the following spring, harvest the roots. In our mild climate, this works better than harvesting in the late fall as prescribed by most experts. Besides, harvesting in the spring avoids the hassle of overwintering root cuttings in moist sand somewhere out of the light.

To harvest, dig up the entire plant, focusing on the extensive roots. Save the longest roots for replanting and use the rest for homemade horseradish dishes. Store horseradish roots for future use in plastic or foil in the refrigerator. Protect the roots from light to prevent them from turning green which alters the flavor and intensity.

For culinary purposes, roots left in the ground beyond the first year become woody, and less pungent. As soon as you plant horseradish, enjoy the baby leaves as an unusual addition to salads. However, freshly plucked horseradish won't have the heat you expect. The heat is released from the roots when the cell walls are crushed by grating or mashing.

Processing horseradish is as tear inducing as chopping onions. To sidestep crying, use a food processor or a strong blender to grind the roots, rather than grating them by hand. Vinegar stops the heat being released and stabilizes the flavor. The heat of your final horseradish dish is determined by when the vinegar is added.

Homemade Horseradish

Photo: Aenne Carver

Makes about 1 ½ cups

Ingredients:

1 cup peeled horseradish root, cut into ½ inch pieces
¼ cup of sugar
1 teaspoon salt
¾ cup vinegar

Combine all ingredients, except the vinegar, in a food processor and grind well. Timing is important when adding the vinegar because the longer you wait the hotter the horseradish. For less heat, add the vinegar one–two minutes after processing. For hot horseradish wait six–eight minutes. Add vinegar according to your preferred timing and puree. Cover and store the horseradish in the refrigerator.

Sometimes people confuse wasabi and horseradish because they generate similar heat and both come from roots. Wasabi comes from the rhizome of *Wasabia japonica*. However, both horseradish and wasabi are members of the large *Cruciferae/ Brassicaceae* family, which also includes mustard, kale, broccoli, and cabbages.

Despite potential tears, horseradish is worth incorporating into your diet because it is richer in vitamin C than oranges and stimulates the digestion of fatty foods. In addition to the basic recipe printed here, you'll find two more on the SDFA Web site. Visit www.sdfloral.org/magazine.

Photo: Aenne Carver

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Dig in!

Free Tree Planting Advice from CAL FIRE

To improve understanding of the importance of plants and trees in developed areas, the California Center for Sustainable Energy (CCSE) has established an Advice and Technical Assistance Center (ATAC) for Urban Forestry. ATAC is a program of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) and funded by a $400,000 CAL FIRE grant to promote urban forestry and sustainable landscaping.

ATAC's main goal is to enable and facilitate a wide range of urban forestry projects in the San Diego region. ATAC is the central meeting place for people to learn both the how-to and best practices in urban landscaping.

Upcoming programs include the following:

Make Sustainable Tree Choices to Increase Property Value
May 16; 5:30–7:30 p.m.

Robin Rivet is CCSE's urban forester for ATAC, an ISA certified arborist and UCCE master gardener. She will offer advice on choosing and locating the best species and specimens for your home, school or business. This presentation will discuss why trees enhance property value, how to purchase the best and healthiest trees and which trees appreciate in value the most over time.

Sustainable Fruit Trees: Best Practices for Home and Schools
June 2; 5:30–7:30 p.m.

Tom Del Hotal is an ISA certified arborist, Southwest College adjunct faculty member and chairman of the California Rare Fruit Growers San Diego chapter. He will provide an overview of which fruit trees do best in our region and some tips on getting the best results from your choices.

Photo: Rachel Cobb

Both programs are free and will take place at the California Center for Sustainable Energy offices, 8690 Balboa Ave., Suite 100, San Diego.

For more information call (858) 244-1177 or 866-SDENERGY. *– Nancy Carol Carter*

By Kathy Jones

Tip 3: Help for Gardener's Knees

If weeding is on your calendar, it's easier on the back to kneel rather than bend at the waist. But then, the knees!

Here are three things to try:

- Plain foam knee pads - they are lightweight and easy to transport.
- A kneeling bench - a little less portable, but comfortable. Plus it can be flipped over to sit on when you need a rest.
- Get in shape - lose weight and exercise. Then you can do the yoga squat – like the catcher's stance - while you weed.

This position is not hard on the knees and great for the lower back. Try it, and if you can't get back up, just fall backwards onto your bottom, roll to your knees and regroup with alternative 1 or 2!

– Kathy Jones is a retired professor in exercise and wellness. A San Diego Master Gardener for 7 years, she is also a graphic artist and copy writer for local clubs and businesses. She is past president of the Mission Hills Garden Club and the Mission Hills Town Council. She has spent the last six years renovating her own 100-year-old garden to incorporate more drought-tolerant plants.

Trees of Balboa Park:

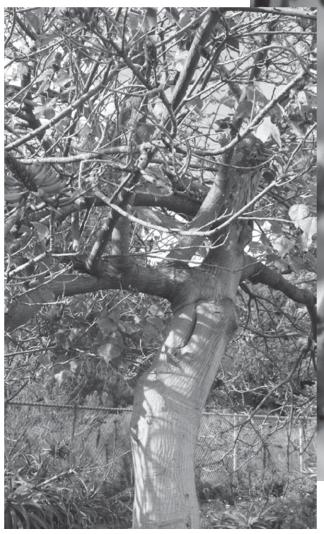
Naked Coral Tree
(*Erythrina coralloides*)

This stout tree has many thick branches and grows 20-25 feet tall and nearly as wide. The 8-10 inch triboliate leaves have triangular leaflets about 2-4 inches long. The leaf petioles and branches have thorns. The trunk is gray-brown and thick. Older trees form surface roots around the base of the tree. The leaves turn yellow in the fall and drop. The Naked Coral Tree remains leafless for several months.

The flower clusters form at the branch tips in the spring. The bright red racemens of flowers are very dramatic on the bare tree from March through May and are the source of the common name. The flower calyx (flower base) is brown and tomentose (felt-like hairs).

Erythrinas are in the bean family and form the typical bean pod containing hard, red seeds. The seed pod of this species is nearly six inches long.

The largest trees are growing in the Desert Garden and are 25 feet tall. *Erythrina coralloides* was voted as the official flowering tree for the City of Los Angeles in 1966.



Photos: Rachel Cobb

–Excerpted from Trees and Gardens of Balboa Park *(2001; $25) and reprinted with permission from Kathy Puplava, Paul Sirois, the City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department and Tecolote Publications.*

Raising Three Sisters

Grow corn, beans and squash the Native American way

By Vincent Lazaneo

Native peoples from different parts of North America used a wide range of agricultural techniques. One of the best known is the interplanting of corn, beans and squash together. This crop trio was considered "the three sisters" by Iroquois Indians of the east.

Growing these companion crops in a garden can inspire children to learn more about Native American agriculture, nutrition, customs and folklore. To learn more about traditional American Indian gardening, read *Brother Crow, Sister Corn – Traditional American Indian Gardening* by Carol Buchanan (1997; Ten Speed Press).

These companion crops help each other. Tall growing corn provides support for pole beans. The beans convert nitrogen from the air into a form plants can use. The nitrogen remaining in the soil, after the beans have grown, will be available for the corn (which requires a lot of nitrogen) the following year. Squash has large leaves that shade the soil and help control weeds. The sisters also compliment each other nutritionally. Corn and squash provide carbohydrates and beans provide protein.

To find information on how to grow a three sisters' garden, visit these websites and enter "three sisters" in the search box:

- National Gardening Association, www.garden.org
- Native American Technology & Art, www.nativetech.org
- www.kidsgardening.com

For planting "the three sisters," some web sites recommend creating low mounds 18 inches to 36 inches across. These small raised beds provide better soil drainage in areas that receive summer rain. If you use this system in our dry summer climate, flatten the top of each mound and make a shallow depression to keep water from running off. Seed can also be planted on level ground in groups called "hills" which are not actual mounds of soil.

Corn, beans and squash are warm season crops. In coastal and inland valleys of San Diego County, plant seed in garden soil from April to mid June in a sunny location. For good germination, the soil must be warm (60-70 degrees F) or seed may rot.

Dig the soil about a foot deep to prepare it for planting and mix in some fertilizer. Some native Indians buried a dead fish. You can buy a small bag of fishmeal at a local nursery. If you have enough space, compare three plantings of the same crops using fishmeal, commercial slow release fertilizer (Osmocote 14-14-14) and no added fertilizer. Water slowly until the soil is wet a foot deep.

After a few days when the surface is dry, use a small stick or your finger to make planting holes and place seed at the depth recommended on the seed packet; then gently firm soil over them. Check soil moisture every few days but do not water unless the soil begins to feel dry at the depth where the seed was planted. Seed may rot if the soil is kept too wet. Seedlings should sprout in 1-2 weeks. Protect them from birds, snails and insect pests.

Plant the corn first and wait until the plants are a few inches tall before planting the beans and squash. You may need to guide the bean tendrils to the corn stalks. Each tendril will wind around the stalk and the developing ears of corn. If you plant sweet corn, it may be difficult to remove the ears when the kernels are young and tender. Native Americans grew field corn, which is allowed to mature on the stalk. You may want to try growing "Indian corn" which is harvested when the kernels are hard and dry.

–Vincent Lazaneo is urban horticulture advisor for UC Cooperative Extension.

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Garden Jewels of the Crown City: SDFA's Annual Historic Garden Tour

Join us on a tour that brings garden history alive in Coronado

By Nancy Carol Carter

San Diego Floral is taking its annual spring garden tour across the bay. This will be the first garden tour of its kind in beautiful and historic Coronado.

On Saturday, May 14, eight gardens will be open between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Tickets are $20 in advance and $25 on the day of the tour. Tickets are available from the Floral office and online through the Floral Association website (*www.sdfloral.org*). Tickets also can be purchased at Walter Andersen Nursery in Poway and Pt. Loma, Mission Hills Nursery, Green Gardens Nursery in Pacific Beach, Kniffings Discount Nurseries in El Cajon and Weidners' Gardens in Encinitas. On May 14 tickets may be purchased at the east corner of Coronado's Spreckles Park— 6th Street and C Avenue. Ticket holders will pick up maps, guides and a free SDFA logo tote at this location.

Be sure to make plans for lunch at one of the fine restaurants in Coronado before or after the tour. The adventuresome may choose to roll a bicycle aboard the ferry and make this a garden ride.

Gardens with historic backgrounds or connected to a historic home have been identified, some with outstanding mature trees and plants. Both early horticulturist Kate Sessions and her nephew, landscape architect Milton Sessions, worked on gardens included in this tour.

Coronado was the site of Kate Sessions' first nursery growing fields and there are many trees and other plants associated with her that have matured to their fullest and most beautiful forms throughout the neighborhoods.

This event is the Association's major fundraiser, providing funds for scholarships, educational programs, children's events, and our magazine. It also furthers the educational mission of the Association by providing access to a variety of historic and beautiful gardens in local communities.

Please join us on May 14 when garden history comes alive in Coronado. Below is a preview of the featured gardens.

A Touch of France

With a love of France and a collection of French antiques, this owner renovated her home in the French Colonial style. A front garden of perennial plants and shrubs bloom throughout the year while saving water and maintenance. A clipped low hedge provides a formal border around this naturalistic planting. The large back garden presents opportunities for outdoor dining and recreation in three distinct garden areas, accented by a collection of antique columns, urns, iron gates, sculpture and a garden bench resting in a bed of Korea grass. Look for some ripening apples, the colorful trunk of a strawberry tree and the well-mannered 30-year old creeping fig that softens a driveway wall.

A Touch of France

Photo: Meredith French

Coronado Splendor

Venture through imposing wrought iron gates to enter a walled tropical paradise, resplendent with swaying palms and flowering plants. San Diego's famous architectural team of Richard S. Requa and Herbert L. Jackson produced this magnificent example of the Spanish-Mexican-Moorish style Requa called "Southern California Architecture." Garden provenance most likely traces to Requa himself, who worked on the exteriors of his projects with his favorite landscaper, Milton Sessions (nephew of Kate O. Sessions). When the current owners did a meticulous renovation of the home, numerous stately palms of different varieties were temporarily relocated away from the building, but thrive after being returned to their original places. One delightful garden area after another is found among the arches and alcoves of this beautiful home. Roses are a favorite here, with 'Just Joey' claiming pride of place. While the back garden and pool area impress as a tropical wonderland, a closer look reveals unthirsty turf and the artful use of hardscape.

Photo: Nancy Carol Carter
Coronado Splendor

Seaside Estate

If Britain's Queen Elizabeth were hosting a garden party in our area, it would be held on the broad lawns of this enormous walled estate garden. Requa and Jackson, San Diego's architects of choice in the 1920s, were given a blank check when hired by a wealthy furniture manufacturer to build his home. While the location is superb, proximity to the ocean has implications for the garden. Requa worked with Milton Sessions to create an unfussy landscape plan that accents but does not compete with the architecture. Many different palms species and cycads are used, along with roses and some seasonal color plants. In the large back garden, red brick paths in a herringbone pattern connect garden features and the Moorish arch is used to good effect. A lath house of unusual design makes a charming casita and fern house. The garden highlight is a spectacular Moorish tile fountain, inspired by the Alcazar Garden in Seville and flanked by rose trees.

Photo: Rachel Cobb
Seaside Estate

Shady Hideaway

With limited planting space at the front of this home, the owners have created their garden in areas hidden from the street. Second floor balconies overlook a very private tiled courtyard with a large fountain. A tall bougainvillea nods above and verdant *Ficus benjamina* provide cooling shade in this peaceful sanctuary. Garden walls have antique lighting and are lined with a variety of low-care plantings including ferns, palms, schefflera, *Calliandra* and giant bird of paradise. Private walkways around the home extend the garden, with potted plants adding interest throughout. A vigorous potted succulent covered with tiny blooms is of special note. It is a rarely seen Bolivian native, *Rhipsalis goebeliana*.

Photo: Rachel Cobb
Shady Hideaway

Artist's Palette

Created by a botanical artist with a love of color and flowers, this garden begins at the sidewalk with a richly varied planting outside the high garden walls. Fuchsias, camellias, roses, ferns, rhododendron, rosemary and gardenias are among the close companions in this long mass border. Once through the decorative gate, there are two distinct garden areas. The garden next to the artist's studio offers inspiration with its grassy center and the dense surrounding landscape of jacaranda trees, hydrangeas and several roses, including 'Sally Holmes' and silvery pink 'Cecile Brunner'.

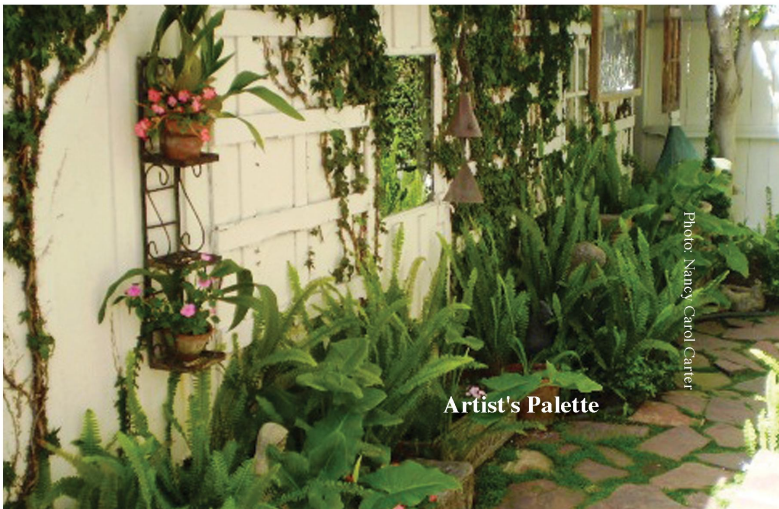


Photo: Nancy Carol Carter
Artist's Palette

Photo:Sondi Arndt

Legendary Coronado

The beautiful mixed planting continues into the patio garden where various potted plants also are displayed. The whimsical use of an elderly bicycle in one garden design and the display of antique garden tools are not to be missed.

Legendary Coronado

Some of Coronado's favorite legends swirl around the femme fatale who became the Duchess of Windsor. When she was Mrs. Wallis Simpson, a Navy wife making the social rounds and enjoying her weekly card game, it is said that she regularly visited this French country cottage. We know that some of the garden is unchanged from the time of her visits around 1918, because it is full of heritage roses and features an artistically gnarled and very old pepper tree. Outdoor garden rooms suited to our benign climate include a circular patio and the private retreat of a courtyard with mature trees. A fishpond adds design interest amid trumpet vines, giant bird of paradise, agaves and a very old creeping fig that adorns part of the home's exterior.

Kate Sessions' Legacy

The original garden design and planting at this Coronado beach home, built for a wealthy San Francisco family, was done by the famous Kate Sessions in the 1920s. That landscape was so distinctive and place-appropriate that its description became a chapter in a book by one of the most famous garden writers of the day. The garden has changed, but in plant selection the current owners have since 1970 continued to reflect Sessions' sensitivity to climate and local planting conditions. An unusually rotund Canary Island palm stands guard at the curb while mature dragon trees, exceptionally large pencil trees, baby jade and *Agave attenuata* punctuate the large front garden. This garden features succulents and other water-saving plants at their sculptural best and in robust maturity.

To See in Coronado:

Dinosaur Food and Blood of the Dragon

By Nancy Carol Carter

Coronado is replete with stately araucarias, large evergreen trees descended from an ancient species that may once have been a favorite dinosaur snack. Araucarias produce a cone and are mistaken for a type of pine tree, but they are unrelated. Two varieties are common in Coronado.

Araucaria bidwillii goes by the popular name bunya pine or bunya bunya. Native to the Bunya Mountains in Queensland, Australia, this tree is sacred to the Aboriginal people of that country. It grows slowly but can exceed 100 feet in height during its 500-year lifespan. On this tree the branches spread widely giving the top of the tree a broad rounded shape.

Araucaria heterophylla, called Norfolk Island pine or star pine, has symmetrical branches, small at the top and gradually wider at the bottom, giving the tree an elongated triangle shape. Captain Cook found and named Norfolk Island, located between New Zealand and Australia, in 1774. This is an ideal tree for Coronado because it tolerates salt, withstands wind and readily grows in sandy soil.

The Hotel del Coronado made history by decorating an araucaria with electric lights at Christmas in 1904. The very tree still stands in a grove of beautiful araucarias on the Orange Avenue side of the hotel and is marked with a descriptive sign.

Coronado gardens also are home to some of the oldest and largest Canary Island dragon trees in the San Diego region.

Dracaena draco is one of the *Dracaena* species producing a red resin called dragon's blood, used traditionally as a medicine for both internal and external treatments. Dragon's blood also found a place in witchcraft, medieval magic and alchemy. More practically, the resin was used as a varnish for furniture and violins and as an ingredient in incense and body oils.

Dragon trees have sturdy branching trunks and sword-shaped leaves. Fallen leaves show a resin stain of bright orange at their base. The tree grows slowly but can live for centuries; some native specimens are believed to be more that 650 years old. Kate Sessions used the dragon tree frequently in her gardens because of its drought tolerance and sculptural quality.

The *Dracaena draco* growing near the Hotel del Coronado entrance is an imposing centenarian.

Photo: Rachel Cobb

Kate Sessions' Legacy

Flora Firenze

A picturesque wooden gate set in an arch provides a warm welcome to this Tuscan-inspired home and garden. This peaceful retreat conjurs the warmth and comfort of an afternoon in the Italian hills among fruit trees and a refreshing fountain. Cool stucco walls are a backdrop for a bright purple trumpet vine surrounding an antique wall lamp, full-blown roses bursting with color and a fragrant star jasmine. A vine-covered garden wall extends a sheltering arm behind an alfresco dining area located under the major feature of this garden: a pergola supported by sturdy pillars and entwined with the thick ropes of a mature wisteria plant. Lavender, rosemary and other low-water Mediterranean plants are accented with strawberry beds and spots of colorful blooms amid low clipped hedges.

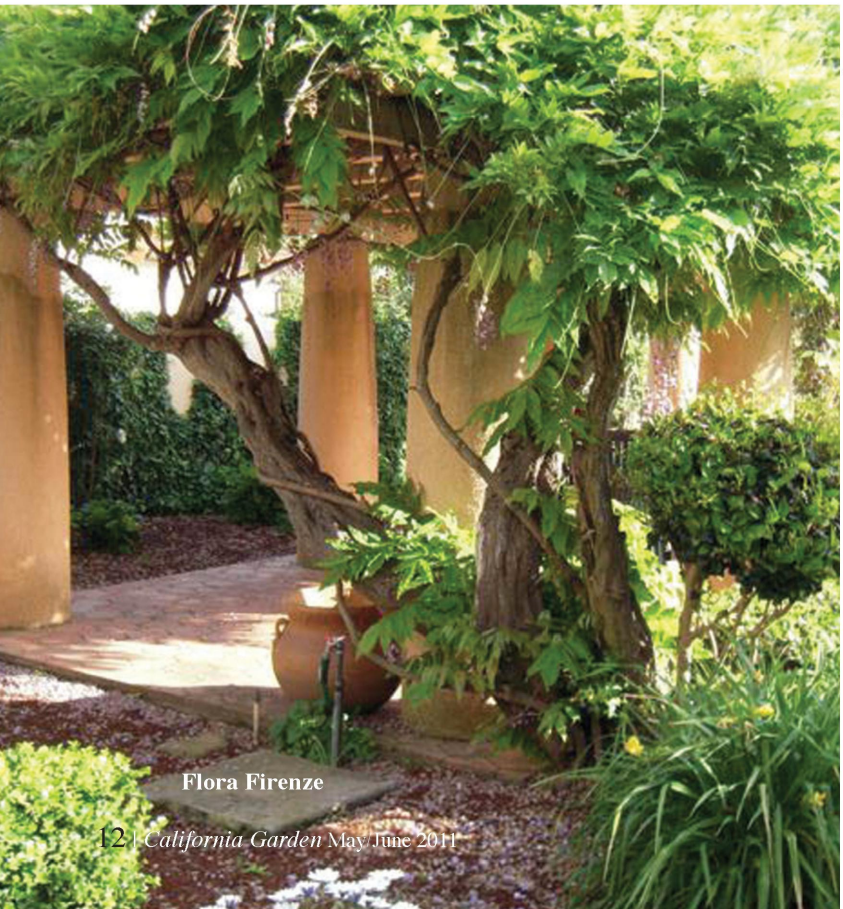


Photo: Kay Harry

Flora Firenze

Kate in Coronado:

Origins of the K.O. Sessions Nursery

By Nancy Carol Carter

Photo: Rachel Cobb

Hotel Del Coronado

When a young teacher switched careers in 1885, she soon found herself making frequent trips across San Diego Bay. Kate Sessions had entered the nursery and florist business and with her partners cultivated growing fields near the ferry landing on a Coronado block bounded by C and B Avenues and 2nd and 3rd Streets.

When the partnership dissolved, the K.O. Sessions Nursery business was founded. Sessions made improvements to her half of the Coronado property, building greenhouses, lath structures and a sales office facing C Avenue. To reduce travel across the bay, she camped out a few days each week in her office, otherwise boarding with a San Diego family and working in her downtown Cut Flower Depot.

The developers of Coronado and its grand hotel were maturing plants on a lot near Sessions' property for use in landscaping the town and the Del Coronado Hotel grounds. Sessions was one of their suppliers and became involved in landscaping the hotel courtyard with rare trees and flowers, including the first bird of paradise planted in the area. Upon the completion of the hotel, she was appointed to sell off the developers' unused plant material. These well-developed plants became specimen plantings for home gardens all over Coronado.

Within a very few years, Coronado became known for its horticultural beauty, not just at the increasingly famous hotel, but also for the caring development of home landscapes. Kate Sessions cannot be given all the credit, but her enthusiastic experimentation with new and different plants and her determination to test the limits of a benevolent climate provided a demonstration of what would grow and flourish in a Coronado garden. The variety and age of Coronado's palms, pines, araucarias and exotic succulents are directly traceable to her.

Kate Sessions moved her nursery in 1892, but garden visits to Coronado recall her presence in earlier times. Kate Sessions always invited San Diegans to cross the bay to see her growing fields when rich with pansies, or carnations, or roses, or hyacinths, or chrysanthemums, or when an exotic tree or vine produced its first blooms. And people came. Ferry business soared when the growing fields erupted into color, back when Kate was in Coronado.

Ice Plant–Hot Topic

Choose among many kinds of ice plant, but beware – some are very invasive

Story and photos by Meredith French

Just like daisies, not all so-called ice plants are alike. Numerous species of ice plant are found in at least nine different genuses. Linnaeus first placed these low-growing, succulent perennials and a few annuals into a single genus, *Mesembryanthemum*. This word was derived from the Greek word *mesembria* meaning noon flowering.

Today, only one ice plant remains under this genus, the crystalline ice plant (*Mesembryanthemum crystallinum*). This plant is an annual or biennial succulent that has naturalized on coastal bluffs of the California coast and the Channel Islands. Its common name is derived from the tiny blisters on its leaves and stems that are iridescent in the sun.

Beginning in the 1920s, botanists began moving plants out of the genus *Mesembryanthemum* into other more appropriate genuses. Currently, there are more than 500 genuses, and over 2,500 species, mostly from South Africa. All are loosely referred to as ice plant. So much for that generic term.

Delosperma

The Name Game

Ice plant genuses most widely recognized and available locally are: *Aptenia, Carpobrotus, Cephalophyllum, Delosperma, Drosanthemum, Lampranthhus, Malephora,* and *Dorotheanthus*. These are recognized as ice plants due to specific similarities, such as having many petalled, daisy-like flowers that are intensely reflective.

Additionally, all of these ice plants are low growing, and perform best in soil that drains well. Although low growing, ice plants are not traffic tolerant. Moreover, none of them requires much feeding. If you fertilize them, it should be done sparingly in the fall and then again after their bloom cycle.

Keep in mind that some ice plants are very invasive. In fact, some are on the list of invasive plants produced by the California Exotic Pest Plant Council. (For a quick reference on invasive ice plants, see Page 14.) Responsible gardening is the key to growing ice plants. Be cautious and learn measures you can take to prevent this plant from escaping into native habitat.

'Red Apple' (*Aptenia cordifolium* 'Red Apple') is a well-known ice plant used on slopes in the San Diego area. It has flat, heart shaped leaves and purplish red flowers. To look its best, summer irrigation is advised. 'Red Apple' has replaced the following varieties in popularity as a ground cover: *Carpobrotus chilensis* and *Carpobrotus edulis*. Unfortunately, 'Red Apple' has proven to be just as invasive.

Carpobrotus chilensis and *Carpobrotus edulis* are the familiar succulents that are invading canyons and taking over freeway slopes. *Carpobrotus chilensis* is more diminutive, and slightly less invasive. Originally thought to hold slopes, it is now understood that these plants create just the opposite condition due to their weight. Additionally, the thick dry under-mat both form is instant fuel for wild fires. Attractive as their big flowers are, both should be avoided. *Carpobrotus edulis* is so insidious that it has been placed on the list of the 20 most invasive plants harmful to natural habitat by the California Exotic Pest Plant Council.

Carpobrotus

Cephalophyllum genus contains several species from South Africa with spiky leaves that point upward. The best known of these is *Cephalophyllum* 'Red Spike'. As the common name suggests, this plant is notable for its large red blossoms. This is true as they age, but in reality the flowers are iridescent and vary from orange to pink as the light hits the blossoms. Bees adore this plant. Blossoms appear early in the year and most watering should occur then. Plants grow in clumps three to five inches high and slowly spread to 18 inches across. Reduce watering in the summer. While 'Red Spike' is not on any invasive plant list, use caution when planting any ice plant.

Delosperma is a genus of 150 species. The flowers come in a wide range of colors including white, yellow and pink shades. One interesting thing about this genus is that the leaves have a lot of variation from species to species. They all require regular water in the summer. Some *Delosperma* are considered moderately invasive. To be safe, try 'Cooper's' or 'Hardy' ice plant (*Delosperma cooperi*). This specific variety is suggested by the California Exotic Pest Plant Council as a replacement for invasive groundcovers.

Lampranthus means bright flower in Greek. This large genus, listed as very invasive, has more than 200 species and originates in South Africa. They are characterized by their vivid flowers ranging from bright yellow to red and purple. The magenta-fuchsia variety, trailing ice plant (*Lamprathus spectabilis*), is widespread in yards throughout San Diego County. The leaves are three sided and a soft grey green. Several species of *Lampranthus* cascade attractively, especially *Lampranthus deltoids*. They get woody and should be cut back to get new growth. The genus does well close to the ocean.

Drosanthemum is a genus with approximately 100 species with foliage that appears to glisten with ice crystals. The flowers come in shades of red, yellow, white, orange, pink or lavender. Plants sold as Rosea ice plant may actually be either *Drosanthemum floribundum* or *Drosanthemum hispidum*. This is confusing, but they are closely related and very similar. However, the latter can be distinguished because it has darker almost purple flowers. Both form blankets of pale pink or purple-lavender flowers and are attractive to bees.

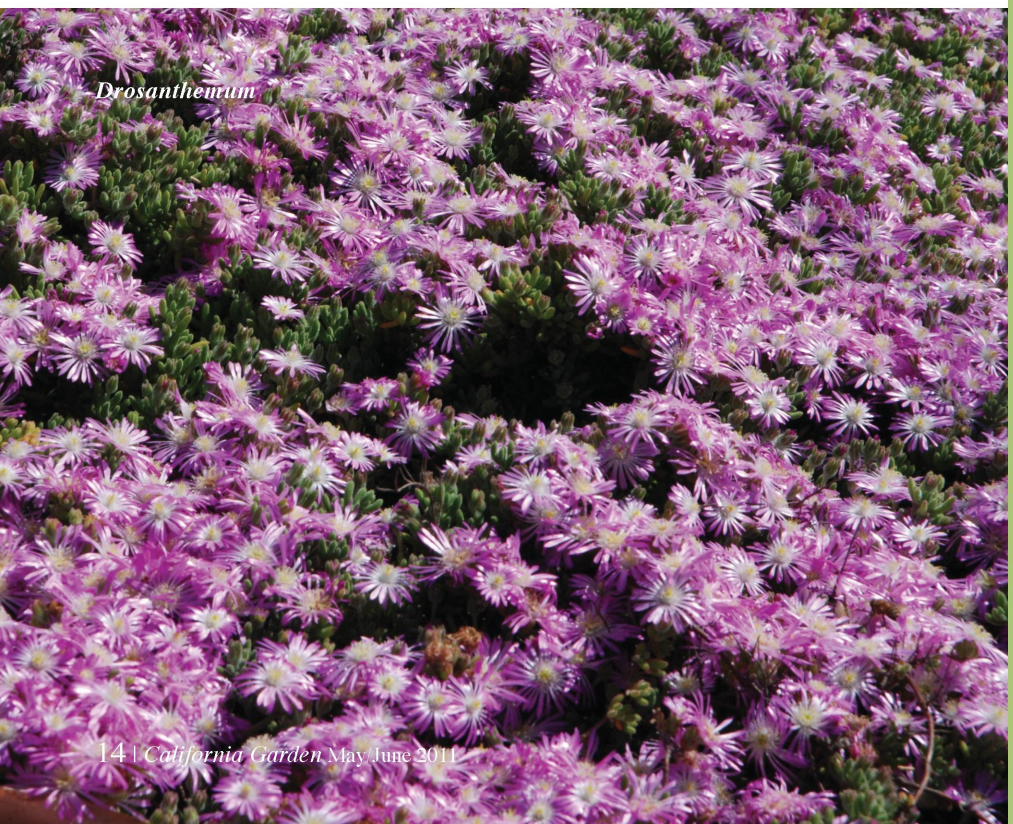
This is the best genus of ice plant for erosion control. Plus it tolerates poor soils. The flowers bloom in early summer. Rosea ice plant is a particularly safe bet since it is specifically recommended by the California Exotic Pest Plant Council.

Malephora is yet another genus that is called ice plant. This genus is composed of about 15 species, all highly resistant to heat, wind and fire. This genus is a low growing, Mediterranean native with oblong leaves that seem to be coated with a bluish wax. The flowers are orange to yellow. *Malephora* are being watched, but for now, they are considered moderately invasive.

Dorotheanthus is an annual genus of 10 species commonly called Livingstone daisy. This genus is distinguished by flowers in a variety of colors on the same plant, and they tolerate poor soils. Livingstone daisy (*Dorotheanthus bellidiformis*) forms a multi-colored carpet and possesses glistening leaves like those found in the aforementioned genus *Drosanthemum*.

Armed with new knowledge of ice plant, it is wise to shop carefully when selecting a cover for your rock gardens, borders or slopes. Explore the multiple genuses that make up ice plants and you will find one to suit your needs. Look for varieties that tolerate poor soil, cascade or have large colorful flowers; but give any invasive ice plant a cold shoulder.

–Meredith French is a Master Gardener and professional photographer.



Drosanthemum

Invasive Ranking of Ice Plants

Source: California Invasive Plant Council

Aptenia cordifolium 'Red Apple' - highly invasive

Carpobrotus edulis - highly invasive

Carpobrotus chilensis - moderately invasive

Cephalophyllum 'Red Spike'- all *Cephalophyllum* are not invasive; use caution

Delosperma cooperi - all *Delosperma* are not invasive; use caution

Drosanthemum (D. floribundum and *D. hispidum*) - all *Drosanthemum* are not invasive; use caution

Lampranthus - highly invasive

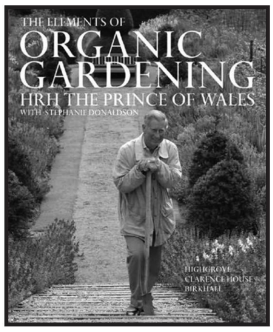
Mesembryanthemum crystallinum - moderately invasive

Malephora - moderately invasive

Place all trimmings from any ice plant in the garbage, not the compost pile. Never throw any plant trimmings into native habitat. For more methods to help control invasive plants, such as biological, chemical and mechanical methods, go to www.cal-ipc.org. There you'll find lists of invasive plants and a section called "Don't Plant a Pest."

Lampranthus

Reviews



The Elements of Organic Gardening
By HRH The Prince of Wales with Stephanie Donaldson

Kales Press
$39.95 (Hardback); 176 pages

The photography is by Andrew Lawson with additional photography by David Rowley. I give these credits because the book's pages are photography-intensive, a prime attraction.

The cover shot by Rowley shows wood steps interlaid with gravel, a path of the same gravel stretching to a background bordered with lavenders and mown grass. In the foreground almost at the top of the steps, HRH the Prince of Wales leans on a sturdy spade. He is dressed in baggy, Brit gardening attire appropriate to either gender. His gold signet ring gleams in the light. Prince Charles angles toward us as if ready to confide all we need to know about organic gardening.

Indeed, the six chapters of the book lay out the subject clearly, addressing all the essential elements for organic gardens like those Prince Charles created in the Scottish Highlands at Birkhall and in Central London's Clarence House. His family home of Highgrove has a restoration garden. One chapter, The Blueprint, gives notes on soil biology, compost, mulch, pruning, seeds and pest and disease control.

The Prince knows his stuff. He wrote the introduction and his quotes appear throughout the book. His voice is formal, instructional, restrained. Here is a sample of his style, "'Stewardship' and 'husbandry' may be considered old-fashioned words, but they encapsulate precisely that sense of continuity of management that is in harmony with the perpetual natural laws and rhythms of the Universe of which we are an integral part."

Stephanie Donaldson, an organic gardener for 30 years, is responsible for the prologue and wrote the main text. Author of several gardening books and editor of "Country Living," UK edition, she has a brighter tone, her prose casual and direct. Donaldson offers tidbits like, "The Prince and the Duchess are very hands-on in Birkhall's gardens. They even spent part of their honeymoon finding homes for the many plants they had received as presents."

The English gardens are filled with familiar vegetables and plants like Swiss chard, onions, tomatoes, cosmos, larkspur and salvia. Yet, the English landscapes discussed are different in scale and temperament from our more modest plots. They have room for several specific gardens all located on huge grounds. These large gardens often have multiple features like an arboretum, an azalea walk, a sanctuary and a dovecote. The descriptions and photos of topiaries, ponds, fountains and ornamental sculptures really make a gardener desirous.

The book will appeal to many types of gardeners, including the following:

- The aesthete who revels in artistry of photographer and designer, dreamy misty country vistas, bordered walkways, the intricacies of willow slips knotted and laced into lattice structures
- The sensualist who sinks into the cerise beauty of rhubarb, the charm of a mossy stone fountain, the arching shape of an apple branch loaded with spring blossom
- The literary critic who appreciates the tradition and formality of well-crafted prose and thoughtful expression
- The spiritualist who admires the natural rhythms of Earth including the interwoven cycles of death of rebirth
- The student who desires to master the principles and rigorous demands of holistic gardening
- The historian who traces Highgrove's decades-long conversion from dismal estate to organic wonderland utilizing ancient systems of cultivation
- The sensible gardener who picks up practical technique from hard-won knowledge

Prince Charles proclaims, "Soil is primeval, and a living organism – we must treasure it. At Highgrove, I have always practiced the art of feeding the soil rather than the plant. This is done with the application of home-produced compost directly to the soil surface." The head gardener David Howard gives us, "My philosophy of compost is that it is everything the garden needs because it is made out of everything from the garden." The reach between these two approaches, the semi-mystical and the mundane, is heart of this book.

Brew yourself a cup of tea, as you settle in for a cozy session. *The Elements of Organic Gardening* is a timeless book you will want to revisit. – *Theodora Gurns*

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Golden Barrel Cactus
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"...inspiring book(s) for real gardeners at every skill level, from first-timers to seasoned pros."
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ROOTS

Profiles in Horticultural History

By Nancy Carol Carter

John G. Morley

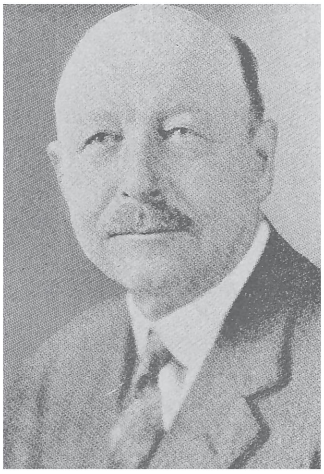


Photo: *California Garden*

When John G. Morley retired in 1939 after 27 years as superintendent of San Diego's parks, he was feted at two different banquets, one attracting 150 guests. His work in developing the city's parks was generously praised. Nobody, a member of the park board said, was "more quietly efficient or ever accomplished more spectacular results than John G. Morley, the real builder of Balboa Park."

Morley was too self-effacing to trust in fulsome praise, but acknowledgement of his success as a public park executive must have brought a measure of satisfaction. He had suffered cruel career reversals on two different occasions in his life.

Morley was born in Newark-on-Trent, an ancient market town near Sherwood Forest in England's East Midlands. As with many British horticulturists of the time, he followed his father into gardening work. We know little of his early life, but one account states that he studied horticulture in Boston. He did live in Boston and married there. He had left England around 1890 and court records show that he was naturalized as a United States citizen in Los Angeles on June 18, 1891.

With so few facts about the younger John Morley, one brief newspaper comment is tantalizing: he is described as an "ex-Klondike gold-rusher." Sometime between 1896 and 1899, gold fever struck the man usually described as unflappable, earnest, steady and practical. He did not strike it rich in the Yukon and soon resumed horticulture work.

John G. Morley was assistant superintendent of parks for the City of Los Angeles, becoming superintendent in 1903. These were lean years for Los Angeles parks. Morley was credited with ideas and ambition, but was allocated few resources for park development.

In 1910 the park superintendent position became a political football. When the mayor's new parks commissioner asked for Morley's resignation, Morley dug in his heels. When charged with mismanagement and incompetence, he was incensed. He called the accusations unfair and stoutly maintained that his work in the city parks was at the highest level possible within severe budget constraints. He refused to resign.

Eventually, the mayor got his way and the story was sensationally reported in the local press. Morley had been forced from his first city park management position and publicly embarrassed. With his city parks career in tatters, he entered a private landscape engineering and consulting business in Los Angeles. This venture was still new when Morley was approached about a job in San Diego. Members of the San Diego Park Commission recognized Morley's ouster as a hazard of the political patronage system, not a valid assessment of his abilities. They were determined to recruit him.

Meeting Deadline Challenges

San Diego's big city park was being developed under a comprehensive master plan, but once the city decided to hold a world's fair, park improvements needed to go on a fast track. The city was counting down to the January 1, 1915, opening of the Panama-California Exposition and the park commission urgently needed a capable superintendent to push ahead work in Balboa Park and in the other city parks that would attract visitors during the fair.

Morley "caught the vision," according to a park commissioner, and on November 17, 1911, began one of the periods of intense effort and accomplishment that characterize his years in San Diego. The challenges were many. Lack of water and recalcitrant soil in Balboa Park could be solved with piping and dynamite, but it all took extra time to get a plant into the ground. In just one year, ten tons of dynamite were used to blast holes for trees. A Harvard-trained landscape architect later observed that Morley had handled an almost impossible horticultural problem with intelligence and dogged perseverance, obtaining results that won national and international praise.

A second challenge was to Morley's skill as a diplomat and negotiator. Within Balboa Park, the Exposition Committee had authority to design and construct buildings, roads and bridges. Although crossed lines of authority were inherent in this arrangement, Morley found ways to work cooperatively with the engineer and architect of the exposition.

Finally, the scope of responsibility Morley undertook as superintendent of parks was exceptionally broad. Besides Balboa Park, he was responsible for 49 other San Diego parks. Torrey Pines Park was then in the city system, along with the La Jolla waterfront park, and Soledad and Collier Parks.

Morley added a fierce work ethic to a mix of job skills and fully met the challenges. The California-Pacific Exposition was known as the "Garden Fair"—a testament to the beauty of the exposition grounds and the park by 1915. An architectural journal later wrote: "Everyone knows that the San Diego Fair resulted in Balboa Park and John Morley, two monuments to horticulture."

Just weeks after the Exposition closed in 1917, Morley took on the new challenge of preparing park buildings for the use of the Navy as America's entry into world war loomed. Morley again had to deal with parallel authority figures in the park and he again won praise for his cooperation and for the speedy facilitation of military needs.

Career Crisis and A Life's Work

On June 10, 1917, the park commission exploded a bombshell over San Diego by asking for John Morley's resignation. They had already selected Morley's replacement, a real estate agent who once worked for U.S. Steel Company. Commissioners conceded that he knew nothing about landscape gardening or caring for trees and shrubbery, but thought his corporate experience would "inject business methods" into park management.

As in Los Angeles, Morley refused to resign and continued to do his work. Citizens rallied to his support. Morley sat quietly at the next Park Board meeting while 50 supporters packed the room and appealed to the board to reconsider their action. Kate Sessions won enthusiastic applause when she called the park commissioners "ignorant." Action on Morley's employment was put over to the next meeting. Petitions, letters and editorials hammered the board's decision. At the subsequent meeting, the board again did not act.

The public outcry had saved Morley's job and he had weathered a second career crisis. His remaining 21 years with the San Diego parks were event-filled, but his job was not threatened. He guided Balboa Park through the military occupation of World War I and through the California Pacific Exposition in 1935-36. He wrestled with the problems of aging buildings from the first exposition and helped fight off the placement of the new State College--now San Diego State University--into Balboa Park. Throughout, he constantly improved the park.

Morley created Balboa Park's first rose garden and approved the original succulent and cactus garden. He cooperated in the development of the zoo. He satisfied public demand for a Horseshoe Pitch and got the city council to approve the sale of beer in the park. In the first years of the Great Depression, he planned and built a recreation area in the northeast section of Balboa Park. Upon the recommendation of grateful citizens, it was named in his honor in 1934. Today, Morley Field Sports Complex continues to serve San Diegans.

Morley became an internationally respected park superintendent and represented San Diego through extensive writings, speeches and leadership in professional organizations. He was a state fair director and judged many horticulture and flower shows, including a rose show in Paris. He was a friend of the San Diego Floral Association and contributed more than 30 articles to *California Garden*.

Given a choice, John Morley would not have retired, but the city had a mandatory retirement age, reached when he turned 72 in January 1939. A possible compensation was hearing his life's work summarized and lauded. Balboa Park had become world famous under his direction. He was named parks superintendent emeritus and granted lifetime occupancy of a home in Balboa Park. He was made an honorary fellow of the American Institute of Park Executives. With his grandson, Morley attended the San Diego Floral Association's ceremonial planting of an oak tree, not in his memory, but in his honor.

Eighteen months after his retirement, Morley suffered a fatal heart attack at his Balboa Park home. John G. Morley will need no marble shaft to honor his memory, editorialized one newspaper. Every time San Diegans look upon the splendor of their parks they can recall the career of one of their greatest benefactors. Few leave behind a more enduring monument.

–Nancy Carol Carter is a San Diego Floral Association volunteer with a special interest in horticultural history. She also is associate editor of this magazine.

John G. Morley (second from left) looks on as his grandson John Morley Hayward digs a planting hole for a tree in his grandfather's honor. With Morley are Mary Greer, SDFA president, and W. Allen Perry, San Diego Parks assistant superintendent.

John G. Morley

Horticulturist, Author, Superintendent of San Diego City Parks from 1911-1939

Born: January 21, 1867
Died: June 23, 1940

DIG DEEPER WITH:

No articles or books are devoted exclusively to John G. Morley, but the following article describes the time of his entry into the life of Balboa Park: Richard W. Amero, "The Making of the Panama-California Exposition, 1909-1915," *Journal of San Diego History*, 36:1 (Winter 1990). Online at www.sandiegohistory.org/journal

NOW IS THE TIME

Timely tips to keep plants happy throughout May and June

AFRICAN VIOLETS

Barbara Conrad, Carlsbad African Violet Society

- This is the time of year when most violets bloom. Use a "superbloom" fertilizer from your local nursery to jolt stubborn violets into bloom.
- Check plants with a magnifying glass under a lamp for tiny insects.
- Be sure to disinfect pots when you transplant or change soil.
- "Tight" centers mean too much fertilizer or insects.
- To help maintain a healthy base to produce blooms later, remove all blossoms when you feed with nutrients to concentrate on foliage growth.
- Remember violets prefer distilled or filtered water. They do not like "softened water."

BEGONIAS

Doris Smith, Alfred D. Robinson Begonia Society

- Use light porous soil to repot when needed. Only go one size pot larger. Check tuberous, repot and add fresh soil. Stake as needed.
- Wash off insects with water.
- Pinch back once or twice and fertilize for more blooms and bushier canes.

BONSAI

Kora Dalager, San Diego Bonsai Club

- Monitor repotted trees for adequate watering. Adjust watering to warmer and drier weather.
- Water repotted treed from overhead to be sure both the foliage and trunk are wetted.
- Wet down all bonsai on a regular basis to avert spider mites.
- Spray for insects. Use systemic sprays only as a last resort.
- Pinch back deciduous trees regularly. Pinch back elms weekly if possible.
- Vigorous growing deciduous trees, such as trident maples and zelkovas may be defoliated and repotted in June. Keep repotted trees in the shade.
- This is a good time to do air-layering on trees either in the ground or in containers.
- Cut candles on black pines by mid June.
- Fertilize trees sparingly but consistently. Use an acid fertilizer on pines and azaleas.
- Rotate trees weekly to maintain proper shape.

BROMELIADS

Mary Siemers, Bromeliad Study Group of Balboa Park

- Water throughout the summer by spraying. Bromeliads absorb moisture and nutrients through their leaves. Make sure not to overwater the potting media. Bromeliads do not like soggy roots and are a rather drought resistant plant, easy to grow and maintain.
- Keep them in a well lighted area with filtered sunlight to prevent sunburn. Shade Cloth material is quite effective and it comes in different weights to suit your needs. It can be purchased at nurseries.
- A bromeliad's fantastic and colorful inflorescence will last from several weeks to months. If you like keeping them indoors long periods of time, it is best to place them in a well-lighted area. A southern window with good air circulation is best. Do not place them in front of a fan or air conditioning vent.
- New plants can easily be made for your collection. Right after they have blossomed they produce off-sets (pups) at the base of the plant that can be cut off to make new plants.
- Look for the bromeliad show May 28 and 29.

CACTUS and SUCCULENTS

Don and Laura Starr, The Grateful Shed

- Your succulents are probably looking their best right now due to cool temperatures and spring rainfall. Still monitor for frost in inland valleys. Avoid letting container plants sit in water.
- If you want to apply fertilizer, use half strength liquid. If using granular, apply to wet soil and water in. Apply fertilizer in the morning and choose a warm dry day NPK (numbers on the label) should be all under 20.
- If in containers, move flowering varieties to a place you can see them, as hummingbirds, butterflies and bees will be attracted to the blooms. Gasteria and Knipfofia are particularly appealing to hummingbirds.
- New growth should be evident on most of your varieties and spring is an excellent time to take cuttings to propagate for yourself or friends.
- Check the centers of rosette varieties (aeonium, echeveria, gasteria) for rotting due to sitting water.
- Pests such as aphids, mealy bugs and snails prefer to dine on new growth which should be abundant now. Check the underside of plant leaves. An ant infestation usually accompanies aphids. Contact your local Cooperative Extension Master Gardener office and see what integrated pest management solutions are available.
- Just for fun, plant in something unusual, a child's shoe, rain or cowboy boots, a basket or topiary.

CAMELLIAS

Sharon Lee, San Diego Camellia Society

- May is the time to apply the second of your three annual fertilizer applications. The easiest way to remember the dates is St. Patrick's Day, Memorial Day and July 4th. Mix blood meal with cottonseed meal at the ratio of 1 part blood to 4 parts cottonseed. Use 1 tablespoon for a 1 gallon-sized plant and up to 2 cups for very large in-ground plants. It is also recommended to add chelated iron at this time. If you missed the first application, just start feeding now.
- Keep your camellias watered. While camellias are not water-hungry, they don't like to dry out. Regular watering is the best practice. Deep watering a few times throughout the year to flush accumulated salts from the Colorado River water is also a good idea.
- Mulch plants to conserve water and keep roots moist. Camellias have shallow root systems, and mulching helps keep these shallow roots moist. It is critical, however, to keep the mulch 2 or so inches away from the trunk. Camellias do not like the immediate area around the trunk covered.
- Prune unwanted new growth.
- Be on the lookout for insects. You can hose off aphids. Check with your local Master Gardener hotline or nursery for organic solutions to other insects. Camellias generally do not have many insect problems.

DAHLIAS

Dave Tooley, San Diego Dahlia Society

- Feed with a balanced nitrogen fertilizer (10-10-10).
- Spray as necessary to control insects. Watch for leaf miners, thrips and aphids. Try a systemic; if spraying, use a weak solution on new foliage.
- Water when top of soil is dry. Soak deeply and often when buds are forming.
- Plant new varieties and give regular growing care.
- Draw the soil up around each plant as they grow.
- Pinch out centers of plants when two or three sets of leaves have developed.

EPIPHYLLUMS

Phil Peck, San Diego Epiphyllum Society

- Prune plants to shape by cutting at a 'node' or close to the soil line. Plant cuttings after they flower.
- Bait for snails and slugs. Use ultra fine horticultural oil for scale.
- Wilted flowers that don't drop may be cut just above the branch note to give new buds more room to open.
- Start new cuttings or repot crowded plants.
- Keep soil damp. Do not allow plants to dry out.
- Use a three-month balanced fertilizer.
- Many epis do well on trellis. Stake long, spindly growth.
- Protect foliage from hot summer sun.

FERNS

Bob Halley, San Diego Fern Society

- Remove all old dead fronds.
- Keep humidity up. Most ferns are starting full growth now. Water frequently and fertilize with half-strength, high-nitrogen liquid or slow release pellets.
- Spray for aphids, thrips and scale. Spread snail and slug bait as needed.
- Treat for giant white fly by wiping off egg spirals.
- Collect and sow spores.

FRUIT TREES AND VINES

Vincent Lazaneo, Urban Horticultural Advisor, UC Cooperative Extension

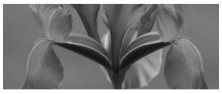
- Check citrus and other hosts of diaprepes root weevil for semi-circular notches along the edges of new leaves. For photos and information visit http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu, type Diaprepes Root Weevil in the search box.
- Examine new "flush" growth for signs of Asian citrus psyllid, which can spread fatal citrus disease. Visit www.californicitrusthreat.org for more information.
- Irrigate thoroughly as needed to maintain adequate soil moisture. Apply water around mature trees in a broad band beginning one-third of the distance from the trunk to the tree's drip line and extending out beyond the drip line a few feet. Apply enough water to wet the soil at least two feet deep (about three inches of water on a loam soil).
- Remove grass and weeds from soil under the tree's canopy.
- Apply a layer of coarse organic mulch on the soil under trees to conserve moisture. Keep mulch at least one foot away from trunk to protect trees from crown rot.
- Complete thinning apples, pears and stone fruit.
- Remove any suckers growing from rootstock (below the graft union).
- Wash trees periodically with a forceful spray of water to remove dust, honeydew and pests like aphids, whiteflies and spider mites.
- Spray walnuts with carbaryl (Sevin) when nuts are about the size of a nickel and again three weeks later to control coddling moth larvae (wormy nuts).
- Control ants, which protect aphids and other sap-feeding insects; visit www.ipm.ucdavis.edu for Pest Notes on Ants and other garden pests.

HERBS

John Noble, Coastal Sage Gardening

- Pull out spent winter annuals such as borage and calendula.
- Prune back perennial herbs, Mexican marigold and rosemary.
- Plant basil, cayenne, parsley, valerian, feverfew and chamomile.

- Harvest Yerba mansa, mint, elderberry flowers and lavender blossoms.



IRIS

Leon Vogel, San Diego/Imperial Counties Iris Society

- Allow cut surfaces of rhizomes to dry and be exposed to sunlight before planting or give a light dusting of soil sulfur. They may also be placed in a vitamin B solution for a while.
- Make sure all iris labels match their name (check bloom description).
- Cut stalks near the ground when finished blooming.
- Feed heavily (1 Tbsp. per rhizome) with a 6-20-20 mix when bloom season is over.
- Keep watering.
- Check for aphids and leaf rush.
- Prepare beds for planting. Work in humus, soil sulfur and decomposed manure.
- Feed spurias with low-nitrogen fertilizer.
- Feed Siberians after blooming with a balanced food. Dig and transplant after June.
- Feed Japanese irises with camellia food; add it to water in which they are growing.

NATIVE PLANTS

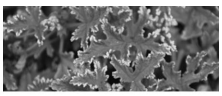
John Noble, Coastal Sage Gardening

- Most native plants can go three to four weeks between watering. Riparian natives need to be watered once or twice a week. Wash the dust off shrubs and trees with a quick shower once a month.
- Harvest wildflower seeds.
- Pull out or weedwack wildflowers after they dry.
- Mulch around plants with shredded bark or gravel.
- Keep planting at a minimum until next fall.

ORCHIDS

Christopher Croom, San Diego County Orchid Society

- Reed-stemmed *Epidendrum* will be in flower for a few more months.
- Protect plants from sun damage as temperatures start to increase.
- Finish repotting. Be sure to soak media first this late in the season.
- Water more as plants increase their growth rate. Give extra water to mounted plants because they do not retain moisture.
- Bring some indoor plants outside for the summer.
- Watch for insect infestations and spray to prevent disease.



PELARGONIUMS

Jim Zemick, San Diego Geranium Society

- Avoid unnecessary pruning or cutting.
- Remove dead or damaged leaves to prevent molds and fungus.
- Watch for geranium rust. Treat with non-sulfur-based rust inhibitor/eradicator such as Immunox. Sulfur-based rust products are ineffective on geranium rust.
- Keep the soil moist and the foliage dry. Many geraniums will drop their lower leaves if they get too dry.
- Apply a good commercial fertilizer at two-week intervals. Use at one-third to one-half recommended strength.
- Deadhead as soon as blooms pass their peak.
- Guard against whitefly, budworm and aphids. Use a product that contains both an insecticide and fungicide. Follow manufacturer's recommendations and keep preventive control on a steady, continuous schedule.
- Keep pots out of full sun. Protect plants from severe sun damage.
- Rotate plants to keep them well shaped and covered with blooms.

PLUMERIAS

Frank Zotter, Southern California Plumeria Society

- Move potted plants from protected winter areas to warm full sun.
- Start watering and fertilizing with a low nitrogen fertilizer like 3-12-12.
- Take cuttings and prune; prune only to shape the plant.
- Repot plants and "top up" larger plants; this is to replace the soil with a fresh and revitalized mix. Use one-half cactus mix, one-fourth #3 perlite and one-fourth Wormgold. Keep soil at same level as before.
- Expect first new blooms from last season's remaining inflorescence.

ROSES

Roger English, San Diego Rose Society

- Deadhead stems and canes when blooms are spent. For hybrid teas and grandifloras deadhead low enough so that the resulting stems will be long enough for the vase you use. Floribunda stems are cut at the point where the new stem will grow and support the bloom(s).
- "Blossom rot" or *Botrytis* fungus shows up as red spots on white and yellow petals and brown spots on petals of other colors. The entire bloom can turn brown and "rot." Remove affected blooms. There is no effective fungicide that can be purchased in local nurseries.
- Stake and protect new growth from bud unions or the large canes at the base of the plant. These "basals" will replace

the older canes you may want to prune away in December/ January.

- Water well as the heat increases. Roses need one inch of water twice a week this time of year. Potted roses need even more.
- Spray wash the bushes with water daily before 10:00 a.m. to control powdery mildew or spray with a powdery mildew fungicide according to the label instructions.
- Feed your roses as directed on the label. Using more than the recommended amount of synthetic chemical fertilizer is not beneficial and harms the environment.

VEGETABLES

Vincent Lazaneo, Urban Horticulture Advisor, UC Cooperative Extension

- Plant warm-season crops, requiring warm weather and soil for rapid growth: beans, corn, cucurbits (cucumbers, gourds, luffas, melons, squash), eggplant, peanuts, peppers, sunflowers, tomatoes and tender herbs (basil).
- Plant pumpkins in early June for Halloween.
- Stop watering onions and garlic grown for bulbs when leaves begin to turn yellow. Dig bulbs when tops have fallen over and place in a shady, well ventilated area to cure.
- Fertilize warm-season crops to promote growth.
- Apply nitrogen fertilizer. For every 10 feet of row, apply one-third to one-half cup of ammonium sulfate or one-fourth cup of ammonium nitrate alongside the row a few inches from the plants then irrigate thoroughly. Apply when corn is 6 inches tall and again when it is 24 inches tall; when cucurbits begin to produce runners; when eggplant, peppers and tomatoes begin to bloom (and again one month later); and beans, a month after planting or when runners start to climb.
- Check plants for pests. Dust or spray tomatoes lightly with sulfur when plants are one-foot tall to control russet mites and powdery mildew. Repeat at 2-week intervals if needed. Wrap paper collars around stems of tomato transplants when planted to protect from cutworms.
- Visit http://virc.ucdavis.edu for more information about growing vegetable crops.

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Some Like It Hot

Make Room in Your Garden for Summer's Soothing, Scented Herbs

By Aenne Carver

Summer mornings in the garden are magical. The air is perfumed; the scents of lemon, roses and mints mingle. Overnight, the basil seemingly has grown a foot and the lemon balm (*Melissa officinalis*) has become frosted with white, sweet flowers. Lemon verbena leaves (*Aloysia triphylla*) dropped into a hot cup of tea becomes a mini-aromatherapy experience. Rounded bushes of lavender are in bud for a second summer showing. Rosemary and baby leaves of pineapple sage (*Saliva elegans*) beckon to be picked for dinner's marinade.

Grow herbs to create scented, time-stopping moments like these in your summer garden. These plants are aromatic, carefree and useful. Many herbs seek heat and thrive during the summer, and they are drought tolerant, non-fussy and practically pest proof. Smelling herbs and watching their rapid progress is guaranteed to take you away from daily cares and to turn up your garden's Zen factor.

Summer Herb Care

Summer is the ideal time to plant epazote (*Chenopodium ambrosioides*), mints (*Mentha*), catmints (*Nepeta cataria*), summer savory (*Satureja hortensis*), basil (*Ocimum basilicum*), borage (*Borago officinalis*), comfrey (*Symphytum officinalis*), caraway (*Trachyspermum copticum*), pineapple sage (*Salvia elegans*), scented geraniums (*Pelargonium*), lemon balm (*Melissa officinalis*), lemon grass (*Cymbopogon citratus*), lemon verbena (*Aloysia triphylla*), fenugreek (*Trigonella foenum-graecum*), lavender and many more.

If you avoid cool weather herbs, such as annual chamomile (*Matricaria recutita*), parsley, coriander, calendula and dill, you will have summer success with herbs. Many perennial, culinary herbs, like thyme, oregano and marjoram, can be planted year round in San Diego's mild climate.

Herbs are summer saviors. Many plants look tired, even ratty when the days heat up, but heat-loving herbs flourish despite the thermometer climbing. The magic of herbs lies in their delicious usefulness, and in their scented, easy-going nature. As an added benefit, you must slow down to savor them, both in the garden and in the kitchen.

To care for summer herbs, place plants where they get a minimum of five hours of sun each day. Mint, catmint, salad burnet and feverfew need less sun, but all need bright light. Herbs are not picky about soil quality and some even become more fragrant in poor soil, like scented geraniums and lemon verbena. Almost all herbs prefer good drainage. Indeed many die when their roots sit in soggy soil.

Basil

Photo: Aenne Carver

Hints for Bountiful Basil

Basil is synonymous with summer; however, gardeners often struggle with wilts and pests. Basil can be difficult to start from seed. Most of these issues are solved by planting basil a little later in the season. Due to demand, nurseries stock basil as early as February without warning buyers that plants are prone to pest invasions and diseases in chilly soil.

Basil is a tropical annual, originating in India, and needs warm weather as well as warm soil. Accordingly, wait to plant seeds and transplants until late May or early June. For added security plant 'Basil Nufar Hybrid', a hybrid Genovese type (large leaved sweet basil) that is the first fusarium wilt resistant basil. Grow plenty of basil to add to Italian dishes, and use large leaves on sandwiches for extra zest.

Grow Luscious Lemon Verbena

Not many herbs can rival basil for culinary uses, but lemon verbena is a strong challenger for the top summer herb spot. Truly nothing smells more like a real lemon than lemon verbena. In the classic novel, *Gone with the Wind*, lemon verbena is Scarlett's favorite scent.

Although experts describe this herb as a tender perennial shrub, lemon verbena actually becomes a small tree in San Diego's mild climate. Lemon verbena flourishes in quick draining soil and full sun. The worse you treat this herb, the better it smells. Forget fertilizing and frequent watering; neglect works best. Moreover, this herb is drought tolerant and pest proof.

Lemon verbena has arrow shaped leaves and, in late summer, frothy white flowers. However, it is deciduous, so some gardeners plant it in a large pot and wheel it out of sight during the winter. Buy small plants because seeds are difficult to germinate. You will be delighted with how large it grows in one summer.

At summer's end, harvest plenty of leaves to dry for potpourri, tea and baths. Keep a sachet stuffed with dried leaves in your car because sniffing lemon verbena is said to ease carsickness.

Lemon Verbena

Photo: Aenne Carver

Try Tangy Tarragon

Tarragon (*Artemisia dracunculus*) has long been a favorite culinary herb, especially beloved in France. It is nicknamed the little dragon, or *Herbe au Dragon*, because apothecaries used tarragon to cure the bites of venomous creatures and mad dogs. Fortunately, today we have medicine for such maladies, and tarragon has been relegated to the kitchen to spice dressings, sauces and vinegars. Tarragon's taste is hard to describe; it is slightly minty with a hint of licorice; but once you taste it, you will always recognize the flavor.

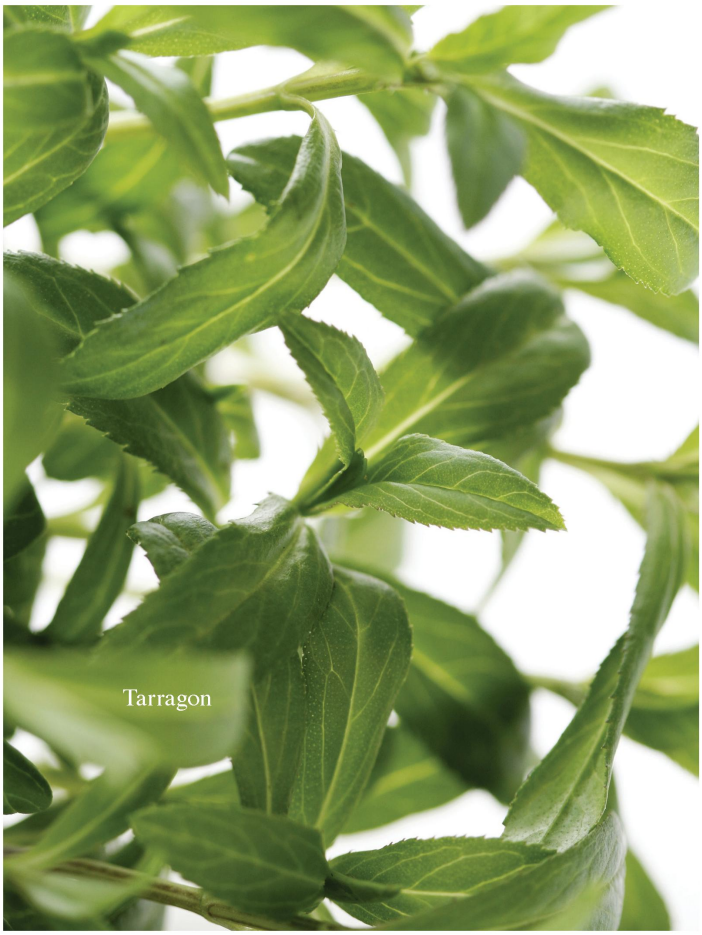
Tarragon

Photo: Aenne Carver

Tarragon sprawls and reaches two to three feet quickly in warm months. The flavorful leaves are thin and an attractive dark green. This perennial herb spreads slowly by underground rhizomes. In hot inland areas, it is best planted where there is afternoon shade, but along the coast tarragon enjoys full sun. In August, small white flowers may appear, but never seem to completely open. Don't worry; this is a characteristic of this plant.

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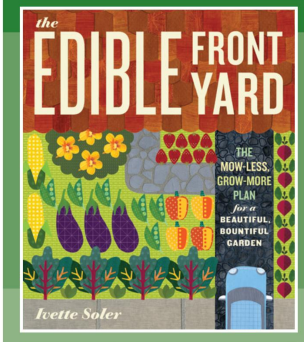

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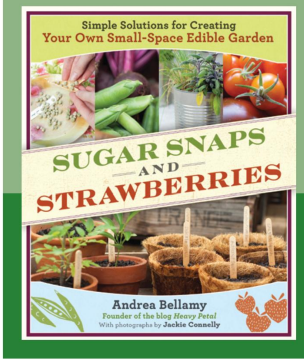

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Judy's Perennials

By Judy Wigand

A Garden Design: Ornamental Herbs Combine Irresistible Color and Scent

A colorful arrange of ornamental herbs, using water thrifty plants notable for their subtle beauty and heady fragrances, reaps many rewards.

With all our California sunshine during the course of a year, creating an herb garden is a good idea. Many favorites among these decorative herbs belong to Mediterranean regions similar to our own, where summers are normally warm and dry just as they are here.

Ornamental herbs are a wonderful category of flowering plants cultivated more for their beauty or decorative effect rather than for culinary uses. With such a wide variety of herbal beauties to choose, having color in a summer garden shouldn't be difficult to accomplish. Their glorious array of flower forms and foliage textures make for a very rich plant palette.

Many herb gardens offer both a mixture of culinary and ornamental but in this small garden, I will suggest plants that are more valued for their pleasing visual effect.

One of the most impressive herb gardens I ever visited is at Sissinghurst Castle, in the lovely countryside of Kent, England. Here Vita Sackville-West put together a most impressive arrangement of herbs, a plant family that fascinated her. She paved the way for many others to see and enjoy this special category of plants, as they offer a wealth of interesting history, folklore and fragrances. Her herb garden became world renowned and although it serves as a strong example, I will suggest a much simpler arrangement of herbal treasures.

Creating a Tapestry

To start, the site should be about 12 feet long and 9 feet deep. This amount of space allows a simple arrangement of plants the room to interact with one another, creating a tapestry of foliage texture, flower color and shape. You might desire a more traditional square or circular shape for this garden, encompassing the same amount of space suggested in the rectangular plot above, which would be 108 square feet; but the plant placement would need to be adjusted accordingly.

To arrange the plants for the rectangular shape, start by placing what I refer to as my anchor plant, Mexican bush sage (*Salvia leucantha* 'Midnight'). This is a striking sage that makes a dramatic effect with its summer to fall display of deep purple flowering spikes. This plant, when mature, reaches 4-feet by 5-feet, so place it in the center of the background, a couple of feet from the back borderline. This leaves plenty of room in the foreground for lower growing ornamentals.

Adding to the background structure is the tried and true Jerusalem sage (*Phlomis fruticosa*). Although not a true sage, it's a strong relative and earns its place in an herb garden. There are many *Phlomis* species but *P. fruticosa* is the one I've had the most positive experience growing. Place it to the left of the Mexican bush sage, a couple of feet from the back and side borders. Jerusalem sage offers a strong reliable growth habit, blooming beautiful soft yellow flowers that encircle its upright stems. It reaches 4-feet tall and wide when mature, making a perfect partner to the purple spires of 'Midnight' sage.

Lion's tail (*Leonotis leonurus*) will help to complete this background planting, reaching 5-feet by 4-feet when mature. The fuzzy orange tubular blooms along its upright stalks will greatly complement this garden. Place it to the right side of the Mexican bush sage, allowing a couple feet for growth from the back and side edges.

All three of these background plants grow into shrubby perennials needing ample space to grow, each requiring about 4-feet in width. It takes about two years from planting time for a gallon size container to fill that space, so be patient.

A Must-have Classic

What is an herb garden without lavender? A favored easy-to-grow variety is 'Goodwin Creek Grey'. This is a superior hybrid offering abundant deep purple flower spikes over many months from spring to fall. Its silvery-gray dense foliage forms a 2-foot tall by 3-foot wide lovely mound of fragrant blooms. Use two plants, placing one a couple of feet in front of the Lion's tail and another a couple of feet in front of the Jerusalem sage, giving each lavender a three foot circle of space for growth.

Photo: Bob Wigand

Leonotis leonurus

In the center of the middle, allowing appropriate space in front of the Mexican bush sage, plant two 'Moonshine' yarrows (*Achillea* 'Moonshine') side by side. Placing these two plants a couple of feet apart in front of the 'Midnight' sage will create abundant flowers as they grow and merge together. The reason for doing that is to achieve a dramatic visual effect of the yarrows' flat-headed yellow blooms directly in front of the purple-flowering 'Midnight' sage.

'Moonshine' yarrow is a highly sought-after herb due to its clump-forming compact habit and its fern-like silvery-gray foliage. The soft lemon-yellow flowers are abundant throughout summer, rising on 1- to 2-foot tall stalks; deadheading promotes more bloom. 'Moonshine' yarrow reaches 2-feet by 3-feet and closely resembles taller growing *A.* 'Coronation Gold' but is about a foot shorter in height, making it more in scale to this garden scheme.

Front and Center

To fill the front border, place two orange hyssops (*Agastache aurantiaca* 'Apricot Sprite') in each corner. These two plants should be directly in front of both 'Goodwin Creek Grey' lavenders, allowing about a foot of growing space from the outside border edges. This charming compact hyssop is mint-related with very fragrant gray-green foliage. It blooms small apricot-hued flowers on upright stalks reaching about 18 inches tall. 'Apricot Sprite' hyssop is a fine herb to complement the 'Goodwin Creek Grey' lavender behind it.

With most of the garden space filled with interesting and colorful herbal combinations, there is room for a couple more plants. There should be about an 8-foot long narrow strip in the center front that still needs filling in.

A couple of lamb's ears (*Stachys byzantina*) will fill in nicely, placed directly center front in this garden. They are perfect candidates with their large, fuzzy, silvery leaves resembling lamb's ears. This is a spreading, low growing herb to less than 8 inches tall until it sends up its pinkish purple bloom stalks to a foot or more during spring and summer.

Lamb's ears is a very traditional plant found in most herb gardens throughout the world. Although its spreading habit may be annoying to some, I find it easy to cure by just pulling out what isn't wanted at summer's end. Also, during a wet winter, which we haven't experienced lately, it may get downright water bogged with wet leaves. Should that happen, just cut it as low to the ground as possible, and by early spring it will quickly revive with new foliage. To me, its care is minimal. I do feel the lamb's ears' bold foliage is needed to contrast with the fine foliage texture of the lavender and hyssop.

There should be a narrow open space between each of the lamb's ears and the orange hyssop. This should be enough room to plant a few old-fashioned purple bearded iris. *Iris* 'Crimson King', although a dark purple, not crimson in color, is one of my favorite old-fashioned iris. It reblooms almost all year, giving the garden those bold dark purple flowers that contrast so well with just about anything. The iris foliage is also attractive with 18-inch long blades of bluish-green. Few nurseries have this iris but it is around. Any reblooming purple bearded iris will do but make sure it is a reliable rebloomer; otherwise you have a one-time spring show of flowers that won't help the color scheme of this summer garden.

Using silver foliage plants as lamb's ears, lavender and 'Moonshine' yarrow helps offset or delineate greener foliage plants like the sages and lion's tail. They enrich a garden design with their almost glowing beauty, much as white-flowering plants do.

Beautiful Fillers

There are plenty of herb related annuals to help fill gaps while young perennials grow in. Use a little caution when planting temporary annuals so they don't overtake their more permanent neighbors. A few annuals to consider are golden feverfew (*Chrysanthemum parthenium* 'Aureum'), *Zinnia angustifolia* 'Star White' and *Salvia farinacea* 'Blue Bedder', also known as mealycup sage. All three are easy to grow from seed but finding them in six-packs will give you a great head start. Soil temperature for all these "filler" annuals needs to be warm, so now is a good time to plant for rapid growth and bloom.

As the plants in this garden plan grow and bloom, they will give endless herbal pleasures, such as gathering a fragrant herbal bouquet for the table. Cutting spires of purple sage, orange lion's tail, hyssop, lavender, yarrow and Jerusalem sage would make as beautiful a combination in a vase as they do growing in the garden. Many of these plants dry well, offering materials for such crafts as herbal wreaths and potpourris. Ornamental herbs also attract hummingbirds, butterflies and beneficial insects, giving the garden a healthy, environmentally friendly balance.

Most traditional herb gardens have an ornament or two, such as a pedestal sundial or a worn willow chair placed in the center allowing flowers to wildly grow through it. An antique wooden cart or a charming scarecrow would add a dose of country charm. So have fun with this garden, the possibilities are many.

A wonderful North County herb nursery to visit is Pearson's Gardens in Vista. Visit www.pearsonsgardens.com for hours and directions.

–Judy Wigand is a lecturer and freelance garden writer. She operated Judy's Perennials, a specialty nursery, for 15 years in San Marcos.

Superstars of the Edible Front Yard

Beauty Counts When Edibles Are Out Front
So Pick Herbs and Veggies with Ornamental Appeal

Excerpted from The Edible Front Yard: The Mow-Less, Grow-More Plan for a Beautiful, Bountiful Garden.
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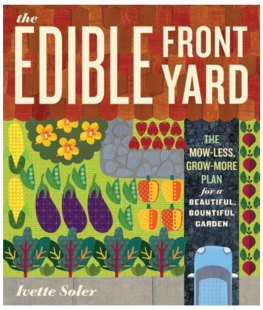
By Ivette Soler



Let's face it—not many neighbors will be friendly to a no-holds barred edible landscape in the front yard. Economics is among the most pressing reasons for this since your property value is intertwined with the property values of your neighbors. If you do anything that might adversely affect the perceived or assessed value of your home, such as neglecting your property, using your yard as alternative parking for your cars, or planting a raucous farm out front, there is bound to be some pushback. Don't forget about the power of curb appeal; a great looking front yard garden is a wonderful asset to your home. Why not plant your food with an eye toward the overall beauty of your front yard?

I suggest a gentler approach to creating an edible garden in such a prominent location: Integrate. Integrating fruits, vegetables and herbs with ornamentals is the best way to approach a garden that has the extra demand upon it to look great all year long. By expanding our edible palette, we create pleasing planting associations that help our edible gardens look the best they can throughout the seasons. These gardens will literally stop traffic.

Photo: Rebecca Sweet

This front yard in Napa is filled with attractive edibles.

Beauty Matters

Anything you grow in your front yard has to work hard for you. You want that prime piece of real estate to look fantastic as well as perform for you throughout the seasons, so any edible you plant there is under extra pressure. It will be scrutinized. …

When your vegetable garden is in the back yard, you have the freedom to let it all hang out. But out front you need to make deliberate choices that give your edibles as much ornamental appeal as any well-designed garden. This involves getting to know the vegetables, herbs and fruits that give you not only the food you want, but also the ease of care you need and the good looks you crave.

The successful edible front yard garden all comes down to the right plant in the right place. We have to be brutally selective, following the same kind of rules used by ornamental gardeners, when choosing which edibles to plant out front. …

Here are my criteria for any edible plant to be included in a front yard garden.

1. The entire plant must have a pleasing form—It cannot stand on the merits of its flowers (or vegetable or fruit) along.

2. It has to give me at least two reasons to plant it, such as color and form, or texture and seedpods.

3. Its leaves must hold up for the entire growing season. Some edibles have leaves that are susceptible to mildews, or are such heavy feeders that the foliage is just worn out by the end of the season. In the backyard, you can deal with it. In the front yard, plant something else.

4. If you must plant less ornamental edibles in the front yard because you have no suitable space, pay extra attention to your hardscape. It's a lot easier to overlook wilted cucumber leaves if they are supported by a beautiful trellis.

Edible Supermodels

… The gardener who wants a flair-filled edible garden has a vast array of plant choices that would be welcome in any garden, anywhere: from fantastic heirloom vegetables and herbs from other cultures to newly cultivated varieties selected by growers with an eye to ornamental appeal. … Here are some plants that will put their best face forward while performing their hearts out. For surefire panache in your edible front yard, be certain to lean on these supermodels of the ornamental edible plant world. Explore the different cultivars and use them to create unique visual and textural combinations in your garden.

Artichokes

The artichoke is the handsome hands down superstar of front yard food. This large beautiful member of the thistle family has such a strong form it could be part of your edible garden's backbone. The delicious "choke" is actually a flower that we harvest before it blossoms. It might be hard but try and let some of your artichokes bloom. You will get one of the most unusual delightful flowers in the plant kingdom…. For all the wonder of the yummy choke and whimsical blossom, the leaves of the artichoke are what make it so valuable in the front yard. The gray color acts as a foil for the green leaves of most edibles and the strong, thick, serrated texture is incredibly eye-catching.

Photo: Ivette Soler

Artichokes in flower form a stunning floral arrangement.

Photo: Ann Summa

Pole beans pair beautifully with red looseleaf lettuce.

Basil

Basil deserves a special pride of place in the edible front yard. It is scrumptious, easy to grow, and as ornamental as any plant could hope to be. One of my favorites, *Ocimum basilicum* 'Siam Queen', has deep green leaves, purple bracts and beautiful dusky flowers that resemble little bouquets. … Another tremendous basil is the purple-tinged 'African Blue'. It blooms early in the season but the flowering doesn't affect the flavor of the leaves, allowing you to let your basil flower and eat it too. … The purple varieties, such as 'Purple Ruffles' and 'Red Rubin', are "team basil" all-stars of the edible front yard. …

Beans

Edible pod beans – snap beans or string beans – have truly come into their own as ornamental plants. … Find selections in a variety of colors like yellow, purple, white and even spotted and striped. Pole beans (*Phaseolus*), which need the support of a trellis or a teepee structure, provide a great

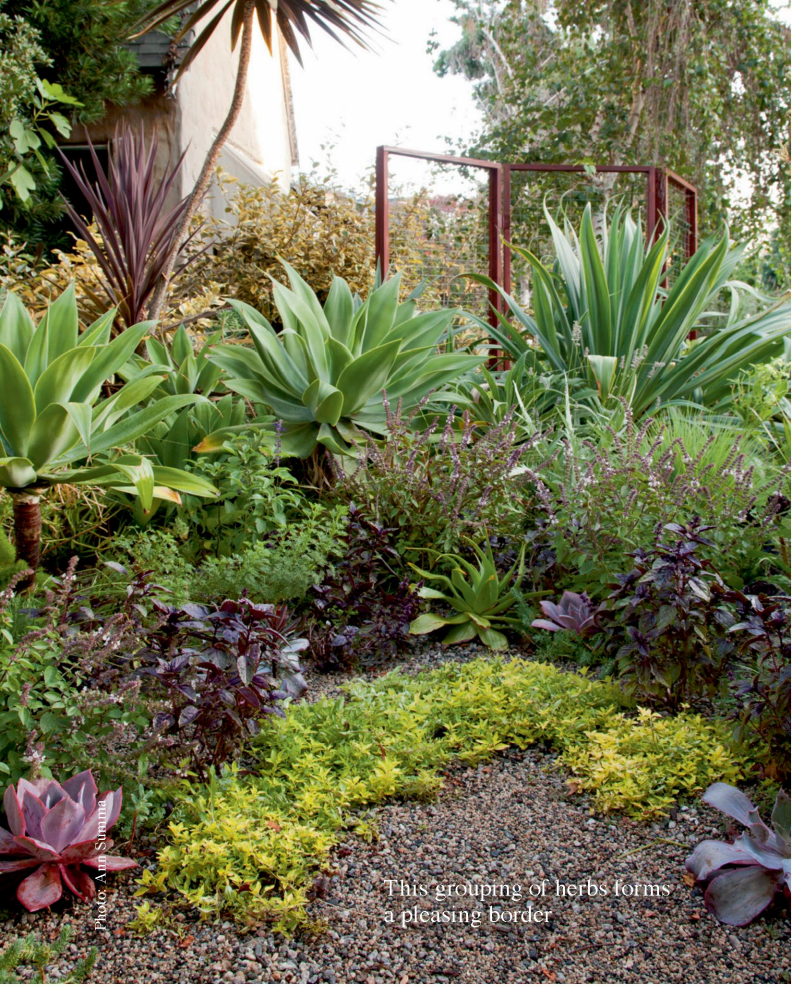


Photo: Ann Sinnma

This grouping of herbs forms a pleasing border

opportunity to incorporate strong vertical elements into the gardens. The standout pole bean, in terms of ornamental appeal, is the scarlet runner bean (*P. coccineus*) which has profuse, beautiful red flowers that hang in clusters. It is often planted just for its flowers alone. *P. vulgaris* 'Royal Burgundy' has glossy purple pods that are incredibly attractive. …

Chard

Chard is a powerhouse both in the garden and the kitchen. With colorful stems and deeply veined leaves it's as beautiful as a plant gets. … Ruby chard can singe your eye with its beauty and rainbow chard is a color carnival. …

Corn

Vertical elements are very important features within a landscape of mounding shrubs, and corn is just about as vertical as a plant can get. Corn grows rapidly so you could even make a temporary screen – or corn fence – in the summer. You can also take a page from the Native Americans and grow corn as a trellis for beans. Play with the beautiful varieties: *Zea mays* 'Japonica Striped' has bi-colored leaves; *Z. mays* 'Rainbow Inca' has gorgeous ears. But even plain old green corn's long leaves arch and wave ornamentally in the slightest breeze. …

Eggplants

There is something alluring about the burnished stems, elongated leaves, and purple, lacquered fruit of this slightly spooky member of the nightshade family. With so many lovely varieties to choose from, you can easily put on a fashion show of different eggplant models in your front yard. The best of the best are the Italian 'Rosa Bianca,' which is striped lavender and ivory; the garden classic 'Black Beauty,' with its enormous and cylindrical dusky fruit; and the adorable white 'Easter Egg', which looks like hard-boiled eggs hanging sweetly from a mini-tree. …

Kale

Kale is gorgeous, delicious and packs a nutritious wallop; it's a must for an edible garden. All kales are great but for the ornamental edible front yard, lacinato kale (also called cavolo nero) is the hands-down best choice. It has unusual, dark green (almost black) leaves that are slender, wrinkled, and curl and twist in interesting ways. 'Red Russian' kale runs a close second: its deeply cut leaves in shades of red or purple make a frilly, ladylike statement in the spring garden. …

Lettuce

Lettuces are an automatic given—how can you have an edible garden and not plant such visually appealing plants? Lettuces are available in a wide array of colors (some are even speckled), shapes and sizes; the leaves range from smooth and elongated to crinkled and highly textured. Planting a swath of lettuces is a wonderful way to create a visual rest in an active garden. Their small size also makes them wonderful plants for the front of the border. They help to create a finished look that gives the edible garden a more traditionally ornamental feel.

Peppers

Sweet, hot, floral, piquant—there is truly a pepper for everybody. Peppers have endless ornamental applications; the colorful variety of the fruit makes them knockouts in the late summer edible garden. If you are mad for heat (for the eye as well as the palate), then plant my favorites—habaneros and Scotch bonnets. They hang innocently on the plant, like little

Photo: Ivette Soler

Chard is one of the edible "supermodels."

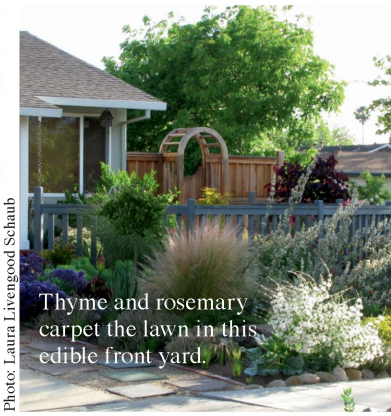


Photo: Laura Livengood Schaub

Thyme and rosemary carpet the lawn in this edible front yard.

folded lanterns decorating a mini tree, but are dangerously, mouth searingly hot. Or try the long, thin, bright red cayenne, which looks fantastic next to eggplants. If you eschew the heat, play with sweet or banana peppers in colors ranging from orange and red to brown and purple.

Sage

Any edible garden that wants to look good should include this tough herb in its ranks. Regular edible sage, *Salvia offcinalis*, is a handsome low mound of gray leaves that also boasts beautiful flowers. … Experiment with cultivars that explore the color palette more fully. *S. officinalis* 'Purpurascens' (purple sage) is a very cool collection of purple, gray and gray-green leaves, and *S. officinalis* 'Icterina' sparkles with green and gold variegation. Speaking of variegation, *S. officinalis* 'Tricolor' does 'Icterina' one better by splashing itself with purple, green, cream and rose.

– Ivette Soler is a garden designer and writer in Los Angeles. Her designs and garden writing have been featured in numerous national magazines. Since 2009, she also has authored the popular gardening blog, The Germinatrix (www.thegerminatrix.com).

SDFA Calendar

A listing of the best gardening-related activities in the county for May and June 2011

May Events

MAY 1

TEMECULA VALLEY GARDEN CLUB FLOWER SHOW
"Flowers and Flix"
When: 11:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
Where: Temecula Recreation Center, 30875 Rancho Vista Rd., Temecula
More information: *www.temeculavalleygardenclub.org/CommunityProjects.html*

VISTA GARDEN CLUB FLOWER SHOW AND PLANT SALE
When: 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
Where: Brengle Terrace Park Recreation Center, 1200 Vale Terrace, Vista
More information: *www.vistagardenclub.org*

MAY 2

PALOMAR DISTRICT'S FLORAL DESIGN FORUM
Speaker: David Simpson, assistant instructor and designer for Texas A & M's Texas Design Seminar
When: 12:30 p.m.
Where: Carlsbad Woman's Club, 3320 Monroe St., Carlsbad

MAY 3

SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY MEETING
Members only will enjoy our potluck awards dinner.
When: 6:30 p.m. Novice Meeting; 7:30 p.m. General Meeting
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.sdorchids.com*

May 4

CHIRP FOR GARDEN WILDLIFE, INC. MEETING
When: 6:30 p.m.
Where: Locations vary
More information: (619) 445-8352 or *www.chirp.org*,

PALOMAR ORCHID SOCIETY MEETING
When: 6:30 p.m. Culture Class; 7:00 p.m. General Meeting
Where: Carlsbad Woman's Club, 3320 Monroe St., Carlsbad
More information: *www.palomarorchid.org*

SAN DIEGO HERB CLUB MEETING
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.thesandiegoherbclub.com*

SOUTHWESTERN JUDGES COUNCIL MEETING
When: 10:30 a.m.
Where: Community Room, North County Fair, Escondido
More information: 760-727-7614

MAY 5

SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB, INC. MEETING
Come enjoy the San Diego Zoo Safari Park Grand Opening.
Where: San Diego Zoo
More information: *www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com*

MAY 6

CARLSBAD GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Installation of officers and potluck luncheon.
When: 12:30 a.m.
Where: Carlsbad City Library, 1775 Dove Lane, Carlsbad
More information: *www.carlsbadgardenclub.com*

■ THREE DAYS

CHIRP FOR GARDEN WILDLIFE, INC. GARDEN TOUR
When: 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
Where: Tickets available at the Vine Wine Bar & Bistro, 2502 Alpine Blvd., Alpine and the CHIRP booth at the Sage & Songbirds Festival at the Viejas Outlet Center
More information: *www.chirp.org*

MAY 7

CHIRP FOR GARDEN WILDLIFE, INC.
Sage and Songbirds Festival
When: 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
Where: Viejas Outlet Center, 5005 Willows Rd., Alpine
More information: 619-445-8352; *www.chirp.org*

■ TWO DAYS

SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY
Plant show and sale
When: Saturday Noon–4:00 p.m.; Sunday 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.epiphyllium.com*

MISSION HILLS GARDEN CLUB GARDEN WALK
"A Stroll Down Sunset Boulevard"
When: 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
Tickets: $25 in advance; $30 day of the event. Children under 12 are free
Where: Tickets at Mission Hills, Walter Andersen's and Cedros Gardens nurseries
More information: *www.missionhillsgardenclub.org*

SOUTHWEST HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY MEETING
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Ecke Building, San Diego Botanic Garden, 230 Quail Gardens Blvd., Encinitas
More information: 858-566-0503, *http://ahsregion7.org/daylily_club_pages/southwest_hemerocallis_society.htm*

MAY 8

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PLUMERIA SOCIETY MEETING
John Ingwerson, owner of Jungle Jack's Plumerias, will address the group.
When: 1:00 p.m.
Where: War Memorial Building, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.socalplumeriasociety.com*

MAY 9

SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY MEETING
Bob Perry, landscape architect and Cal Poly Professor Emeritus will present "The Alchemy of Plants and Gardens: Source of Life and Inspiration."
When: 6:00 p.m.
Where: Surfside Race Place, Del Mar Fairgrounds, Del Mar
More information: *www.sdhortsoc.org*

MAY 10

BROMELIAD STUDY GROUP OF BALBOA PARK MEETING
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 619-479-5500, *www3.adnc.com/~lynnd/brominfo.html*

DOS VALLES GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Marilyn Guidroz discusses sustainable landscape principles.
When: 12:00 Noon
Where: St. Stephen Catholic Church, 31020 Cole Grade Road, Valley Center
More information: *www.dosvallesgardenclub.org*

OHARA SCHOOL OF IKEBANA LA JOLLA CHAPTER
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: La Jolla Library, 7555 Draper Ave., La Jolla
More information: 858-672-7850

SAN DIEGO GERANIUM SOCIETY MEETING
Melissa Worton speaks on "Staging Your Geraniums."
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 858-472-0540, *www.sdgeranium.org*

TEMECULA VALLEY GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 9:00 a.m.
Where: Temecula Recreation Center, 30875 Rancho Vista Rd., Temecula
More information: *www.temeculavalleygardenclub.org*

MAY 11

BONITA VALLEY GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 9:30 a.m.
Where: Bonita Library - Sunnyside Branch, 4375 Bonita Road, Bonita
More information: Lynne Batchelor, 858-451-6764

POINT LOMA GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Tiger Palafox, general manager of Mission Hills Nursery, will discuss native plants and exciting new plant varieties.
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Portuguese Hall, 2818 Avenida de Portugal, San Diego
More information: *www.plgc.org*

POWAY VALLEY GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Member appreciation garden tour
When: 9:00 a.m. Tour; 12:00 Noon Business Meeting and Luncheon
More information: *www.powayvalleygardenclub.org*

RAMONA GARDEN CLUB MEETING
How to certify your garden as a wildlife habitat by Meredith French.
When: 12:00 Noon
Where: Ramona Women's Club, 524 Main Street, Ramona
More information: *www.ramonagardenclub.com*

SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY MEETING
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.epiphyllum.com*

MAY 12

IKENOBO CHAPTER OF SAN DIEGO MEETING
When: 9:30 a.m.
Where: Room 101 Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 858-278-5689

MAY 14

SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY MEETING
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html*

SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY MEETING
When: 1:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101 Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.sdcss.net*

SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION HISTORIC GARDEN TOUR 2011
"Garden Jewels of the Crown City" - eight beautiful gardens in historic Coronado.
When: 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
Cost: $20 in advance; $25 on Saturday
Where: Event day and will-call tickets available at Spreckles Park, 601 Orange Ave., Coronado (6th St. and C Ave.)
More information: 619-232-5762, *www.sdfloral.org*

MAY 16

SAN DIEGO ROSE SOCIETY MEETING
Monthly meeting, potluck and little rose show.
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.sdrosesociety.org*

MAY 17

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY, SAN DIEGO CHAPTER MEETING
"Reimagining The California Lawn: Water-Conserving Plants, Practices, and Designs" by Carol Bornstein, David Fross and Bart O'Brien
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101 or 104 Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.cnpssd.org*

LA JOLLA GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 1:30 p.m.
Where: La Jolla Lutheran Church, 7117 La Jolla Blvd., La Jolla
More information: Jody Peterson, 858-729-0711

RANCHO SAN DIEGO GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: 1077 Vista Madera, El Cajon
More information: Connie Beck, 619-749-4059

MAY 18

SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY
When: 7:00 p.m. Social; 7:30 p.m. business meeting and speaker
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 760-942-1919

MAY 19

BERNARDO GARDENERS MEETING
Garden designer Linda Bressler will discuss succulents and water-wise plants.
When: 1:00 p.m.
Where: Oaks North Community Center, 12578 Oaks North Dr., Rancho Bernardo
More information: *www.bernardogardeners.org*

CHULA VISTA GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 11:45 a.m.
Where: Norman Park Senior Center, 270 F St., Chula Vista
More information: Marilyn Saleny, 619-421-6072

SAN DIEGO FERN SOCIETY MEETING
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.sdfern.com*

MAY 21

FALLBROOK GARDEN CLUB
7th annual garden tour
When: 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
Where: Fallbrook Historical Society, 260 Rockycrest Rd., Fallbrook
Cost: $20 each or two tickets for $35
More information: *www.fallbrookgardenclub.org*

MIRACOSTA HORTICULTURE CLUB OF OCEANSIDE MEETING
"Floral Cuisine - Eat Carnations, Tulips and Roses, But Don't Eat the Daisies" with speaker Patti Pavloff.
When: 12:45 p.m.
Where: MiraCosta College, Aztlan Room, 2nd floor, Student Union Building
More information: *www.gardencentral.org/californiagcc/miracosta*

■ TWO DAYS
SAN DIEGO GERANIUM SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE
When: Saturday 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.; Sunday 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
Where: Casa del Prado, Room 101, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.sdgeranium.org*

MAY 23

BRIDGE AND BAY GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 9:45 a.m.
Where: Winn Room, Coronado Public Library, 640 Orange Ave., Coronado
More information: *www.bridgeandbaygardenclub.org*

CARLSBAD AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY MEETING
When: 10:30 a.m.
Where: Vista Library, 700 Eucalyptus Ave., Vista
More information: 760-295-0484

MAY 24

FALLBROOK GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Aenne Carver will present "Veggies and Herbs in the Flower Garden."
When: 1:00 p.m.
Where: Fallbrook Community Center, 341 Heald Lane, Fallbrook
More information: *www.fallbrookgardenclub.org*

LAKE HODGES NATIVE PLANT CLUB MEETING
Learn about "The Rare and Unusual Plants of Daley Ranch"
When: 2:00 p.m.
Where: Seminar Room, Rancho Bernardo Library, 17110 Bernardo Center Dr., Rancho Bernardo
More information: *www.lhnpc.org*

SAN CARLOS GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 9:30 a.m.
Where: St. Dunstan's Church, 6556 Park Ridge Blvd., San Diego
More information: 619-448-3613

SAN DIEGO COUNTY DAHLIA SOCIETY MEETING
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 858-672-2593

MAY 25

CALIFORNIA RARE FRUIT GROWERS, SAN DIEGO CHAPTER MEETING
Water harvesting and gravity-fed irrigation systems.
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.crfgsandiego.org*

IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL CHAPTER 119 MEETING
Senior professor of the Ikenobo School will demonstrate how to arrange flowers.
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: Keiko Schneider, 858-759-2640

MISSION HILLS GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 6:30 p.m.
Where: United Church of Christ, 4070 Jackdaw Street, San Diego
More information: *www.missionhillsgardenclub.org*

SAN DIEGUITO GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: San Diego Botanic Garden, 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas
More information: 760-436-3036; *sdgc.klnmicro.com*

MAY 26

CROWN GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Installation luncheon
When: 9:00 a.m. Social; 9:30 a.m. Meeting
Where: TBA
More information: *www.crowngardenclub.org*

VILLAGE GARDEN CLUB OF LA JOLLA MEETING
"Garden Bouquets and Beyond" with Suzy Bales.
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Torrey Pines Christian Church, 8320 La Jolla Scenic Dr. North, La Jolla
More information: 858-454-4117; *www.villagegardenclubofla jolla.com*

MAY 28

■ TWO DAYS
BROMELIAD STUDY GROUP OF BALBOA PARK
Judged show and sale
When: Saturday Noon–4:00 p.m.; Sunday 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 619-479-5500; *www3.adnc.com/~lynnd/brominfo.html*

PALOMAR CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY MEETING
When: 12:00 Noon
Where: Joslyn Senior Center, 724 N. Broadway, Escondido
More information: 760-741-7553

June Events

JUNE 1

CHIRP FOR GARDEN WILDLIFE, INC. MEETING
When: 6:30 p.m.
Where: Locations vary
More information: (619) 445-8352 or *www.chirp.org*

PALOMAR ORCHID SOCIETY MEETING
When: 6:30 p.m. Culture Class; 7:00 p.m. General Meeting
Where: Carlsbad Woman's Club, 3320 Monroe St., Carlsbad
More information: *www.palomarorchid.org*

SAN DIEGO HERB CLUB MEETING
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.thesandiegoherbclub.com*

JUNE 3

CARLSBAD GARDEN CLUB ANNUAL GARDEN TOUR
When: 9:30 a.m.
Where: TBA
More information: *www.carlsbadgardenclub.com*

VISTA GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Meredith French will show how to make "plant portraits."
When: 12:00 Noon
Where: Terrace Park Recreation Center, 1400 Vale Terrace, Vista
More information: *www.vistagardenclub.org*

JUNE 4

■ TWO DAYS
SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY
Summer plant show and sale
When: Saturday & Sunday 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
Where: Room 10, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *http://sdcss.net*

SOUTHWEST HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY MEETING
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Ecke Building, San Diego Botanic, 230 Quail Gardens, Encinitas
More information: 858-566-0503; *http://ahsregion7.org/daylily_club_pages/southwest_hemerocallis_society.htm*

JUNE 7

SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY MEETING
When: 6:30 p.m. Novice Meeting; 7:30 p.m. General Meeting
Where: Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.sdorchids.com*

JUNE 8

BONITA VALLEY GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 9:30 a.m.
Where: Bonita Library - Sunnyside Branch, 4375 Bonita Road, Bonita
More information: Lynne Batchelor, 858-451-6764

POINT LOMA GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Annual luncheon and installation of new officers.
When: 11:30 a.m.
Where: TBA
More information: *www.plgc.org*

POWAY VALLEY GARDEN CLUB MEETING
End of the year party
When: 11:00 a.m.
Where: Templar's Hall, Old Poway Park, 14134 Midland Road, Poway
More information: *www.powayvalleygardenclub.org*

RAMONA GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 12:00 noon
Where: Ramona Woman's Club, 524 Main Street, Ramona
More information: *www.ramonagardenclub.com*

SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY MEETING
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.epiphyllum.com*

JUNE 9

IKENOBO CHAPTER OF SAN DIEGO MEETING
When: 9:30 a.m.
Where: Room 10, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 858-278-5689

JUNE 11

■ TWO DAYS
SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY SHOW
When: Saturday and Sunday 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
Where: Room 10, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html*

JUNE 12

SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB, INC. MEETING
This month's guest speaker is Glenn Jensen.
When: 10:30 a.m.
Where: Room 103, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com*

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PLUMERIA SOCIETY MEETING
When: 1:00 p.m.
Where: War Memorial Building, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.socalplumeriasociety.com*

JUNE 13

PALOMAR DISTRICT CGCI SUMMER BOARD MEETING
Board meeting, brunch and tour of memorial garden in Brengle Terrace Park.
When: 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.
Where: Vista Public Library, 700 Eucalyptus, Vista
More information: *http://californiagardenclubs.com/palomardistrict*

SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY MEETING
When: 6:00 p.m.
Where: Surfside Race Place, Del Mar Fairgrounds, Del Mar
More information: *www.sdhortsoc.org*

JUNE 14

BROMELIAD STUDY GROUP OF BALBOA PARK MEETING
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 619-479-5500, *www3.adnc.com/~lynnd/brominfo.html*

DOS VALLES GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 12:00 noon
Where: St. Stephen Catholic Church, 31020 Cole Grade Road, Valley Center
More information: *www.dosvallesgardenclub.org*

OHARA SCHOOL OF IKEBANA LA JOLLA CHAPTER
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: La Jolla Library, 7555 Draper Ave., La Jolla
More information: 858-672-7850

SAN DIEGO GERANIUM SOCIETY MEETING
Meet new members, mix and mingle at our ice cream social.
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 858-472-0540, *www.sdgeranium.org*

TEMECULA VALLEY GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 9:00 a.m.
Where: Temecula Recreation Center, 30875 Rancho Vista Rd., Temecula
More information: *www.temeculavalleygardenclub.org/CommunityProjects.html*

JUNE 15

SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY
When: 7:00 p.m. Social; 7:30 p.m. business meeting and speaker
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 760-942-1919

JUNE 16

BERNARDO GARDENERS MEETING
Installation luncheon
When: 1:00 p.m.
Where: Terrance Room, Bernardo Heights County Club, Rancho Bernardo
More information: *www.bernardogardeners.org*

CHULA VISTA GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 11:45 a.m.
Where: Norman Park Senior Center, 270 F St., Chula Vista
More information: Marilyn Saleny, 619-421-6072

SAN DIEGO FERN SOCIETY MEETING
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.sdfern.com*

JUNE 18

MIRACOSTA HORTICULTURE CLUB OF OCEANSIDE
Annual potluck and installation of officers
When: 12:45 p.m.
Where: Alta Vista Gardens, Brengle Terrace Park, 1200 Vale Terrace Dr., Vista
More information: *www.gardencentral.org/californiagc/miracosta*

JUNE 20

SAN DIEGO ROSE SOCIETY MEETING
Monthly meeting and little rose show.
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.sdrosesociety.org*

JUNE 21

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY, SAN DIEGO CHAPTER MEETING
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101 or 104 Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.cnpssd.org*

LA JOLLA GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 1:30 p.m.
Where: La Jolla Lutheran Church, 7117 La Jolla Blvd., La Jolla
More Information: Jody Peterson, 858-729-0711

RANCHO SAN DIEGO GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: 1077 Vista Madera, El Cajon
More information: Connie Beck, 619-749-4059

SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION
Diane Citrowske, AIFD, will present a program on current trends in floral design.
When: 6:00 p.m. Catered Dinner ($15 per person); 7:00 p.m. General Meeting and Program
Where: Patio of Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 619-232-5762; *www.sdfloral.org*

JUNE 22

CALIFORNIA RARE FRUIT GROWERS, SAN DIEGO CHAPTER MEETING
Deciduous fruits round-up and taste-off.
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.crfgsandiego.org*

IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL CHAPTER 119 MEETING
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Room 10, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: Keiko Schneider 858-759-2640

MISSION HILLS GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 6:30 p.m.
Where: United Church of Christ, 4070 Jackdaw Street, San Diego
More information: *www.missionhillsgardenclub.org*

SAN DIEGUITO GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: San Diego Botanic Garden, 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas
More information: 760-436-3036, *http://sdgc.klmmicro.com*

JUNE 23

CROWN GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 9:00 a.m. Social, 9:30 a.m.
Where: TBA
More information: *www.crowngardenclub.org*

VILLAGE GARDEN CLUB OF LA JOLLA MEETING
When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Torrey Pines Christian Church, 8320 La Jolla Scenic Dr. North, La Jolla
More information: 858-454-4117, *www.villagegardencluboflajolla.com*

JUNE 25

PALOMAR CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY MEETING
When: 12:00 Noon
Where: Joslyn Senior Center, 724 N. Broadway, Escondido
More information: 760-741-7553

JUNE 27

BRIDGE AND BAY GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 9:45 a.m.
Where: Winn Room, Coronado Public Library, 640 Orange Ave., Coronado
More information: *www.bridgeandbaygardenclub.org*

CARLSBAD AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY MEETING
When: 10:30 a.m.
Where: Vista Library, 700 Eucalyptus Ave., Vista
More information: 760-295-0484

JUNE 28

FALLBROOK GARDEN CLUB MEETING
Installation of officers, awards and a potluck lunch.
When: 1:00 p.m.
Where: Fallbrook Community Center, 341 Heald Lane, Fallbrook
More information: *www.fallbrookgardenclub.org*

LAKE HODGES NATIVE PLANT CLUB MEETING
When: 2:00 p.m.
Where: Seminar Room, Rancho Bernardo Library, 17110 Bernardo Center Dr., Rancho Bernardo
More information: *www.lhnpc.org*

SAN CARLOS GARDEN CLUB MEETING
When: 9:30 a.m.
Where: St. Dunstan's Church, 6556 Park Ridge Blvd., San Carlos
More information: 619-448-3613

SAN DIEGO COUNTY DAHLIA SOCIETY MEETING
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 858-672-2593

Gardening Classes

Walter Andersen Nursery, Pt. Loma Gardening Class
Learn a variety of gardening tricks every Saturday morning by attending a free class at Walter Andersen Nursery's Pt. Loma Nursery. Please contact the store for a schedule of events.
When: 9:00 a.m.–10:00 a.m. every Saturday
Where: Walter Andersen's Pt. Loma, 3642 Enterprise St., San Diego
More information: *www.walterandersen.com*

Walter Andersen Nursery, Poway Gardening Class
Come join others at Walter Andersen's Poway store for a free, weekly seasonal garden lecture. Please contact the store for a schedule of events.
When: 9:30 a.m.–10:30 a.m. every Saturday
Where: Walter Andersen's Poway, 12755 Danielson Court, Poway
More information: *www.walterandersen.com*

Water Conservation Garden Classes
The Water Conservation Garden provides a number of entertaining, information-packed courses covering the most topical gardening topics and presented by skilled and knowledgeable experts. Please contact the Water Conservation Garden for program details and any applicable fees.
When: Contact for program-specific times.
Where: 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon
More information: *www.thegarden.org*, 619-660-0614, x10

Walks, Tours & Garden Events

San Diego Botanic Garden Tour
Come and meet up at the Visitor's Center for a weekly tour of the San Diego Botanic Garden formerly known as The Quail Botanical Gardens. No reservations required. Free with admission.
When: 10:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m. every Saturday
Where: Quail Botanical Gardens, 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas
More information: *www.sdbgarden.org*

San Diego Botanic Garden: Children's Events
The Hamilton Children's Garden offers a number of events specially designed to entertain and educate children and their caregivers. Please contact San Diego Botanic Garden for a complete listing of their scheduled events.
When: Ongoing—contact for program-specific times.
Where: San Diego Botanic Garden, 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas
More information: *www.sdbgarden.org*

Water Conservation Garden Tour
Enjoy a docent-led tour of the Water Conservation Garden at Cuyamaca College.
When: Every Saturday at 10:30 a.m. and every Sunday at 1:30 p.m.
Where: Water Conservation Garden, 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon
More information: *www.thegarden.org*

CNPS Native Plant Walk
Join landscape architect and member of the CNPS San Diego Chapter Kay Stewart for a two-hour, easy walk into Tecolote Canyon and back. Along the way you'll study and learn about the plants. This guided walk is free, but may be canceled due to inclement weather or poor trail conditions.
When: 9:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m. first Sunday of the month
Where: Tecolote Canyon Nature Center, 5180 Tecolote Road, San Diego
More information: *www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/parks/teclte.shtml*, (858) 581-9959

San Diego Chinese Historical Museum and Garden
Come visit the San Diego Chinese Historical Museum's exquisite Asian garden.
When: 10:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday;
12:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m. Sunday
Where: San Diego Chinese Historical Museum and Garden, 404 3rd Ave., San Diego
More information: *www.sdchm.org/garden*

Balboa Park Events

San Diego Zoo
Visit the world famous San Diego Zoo for Plant Days and Orchid Odyssey.
When: 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. third Friday of each month
Where: San Diego Zoo, 2920 Zoo Drive, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.sandiegozoo.com*

San Diego Japanese Friendship Garden
Enhance your well-being with a visit to this Japanese-style garden. There is a $4 fee for adults, $2.50 fee for Seniors (55+), children and military with I.D.
When: 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday
Where: San Diego Japanese Friendship Garden, 2215 Pan American Road, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.niwa.org*

Balboa Park Offshoot Tours
Learn about Balboa Park's plants as volunteer horticulturists lead visitors on free, one-hour themed walks. (Inclement weather and low-turnout cancels the tour.)
When: 10:00 a.m. every Saturday
Where: Balboa Park Visitor Center, 1549 El Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.balboapark.org*

Balboa Park Interpretive Walks
Join volunteer-guides on this free, history-oriented walk through Balboa Park.
When: 1:00 p.m. every Tuesday
Where: Balboa Park Visitor Center, 1549 El Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: *www.balboapark.org*

San Diego Natural History Museum Canyoneer Walks
Join trained volunteer guides on a local canyon walks. There is a $2 fee.
When: Times vary; check website for specific event details
Where: Locations vary; check website for specific event details
More information: *www.sdnhm.org/canyoneers*

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San Diego, CA 92110
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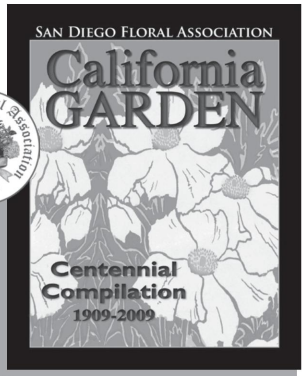
Visit www.sdfloral.org for your calendar of events.
All events with web addresses have live links. Check it out!



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SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION

Garden Center and Library – Founded in 1907
1650 El Prado #105, San Diego, CA 92101-1684, 619-232-5762. Located in Casa del Prado, Room 105, Balboa Park
Under the sponsorship of the Park & Recreation Department, City of San Diego, California

Mission Statement: To promote the knowledge and appreciation of horticulture and floriculture in the San Diego region.

OBJECTIVES

1. To educate and encourage regional gardeners through lectures, classes, publications, scholarships and library resources.
2. To promote the use of regionally appropriate plants and gardening techniques, including natives and Mediterranean climate adapted plants.
3. To encourage, educate, and support floral design activities for personal and public display.
4. To advise and encourage leaders and the community in conservation and beautification of public and private spaces. To network and support plant-interested groups and societies

GENERAL MEETINGS 2011

February 16

April 19

June 21

Casa del Prado, Room 101
Balboa Park, San Diego

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Meredith French
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Arrangers Guild Liaison
Sharon Lowry

2011 AFFILIATES

CHIRP FOR GARDEN WILDLIFE, INC.
Exec. Director: Maureen Austin
President: Lisa Lomax
P. O. Box 532
Alpine, CA 91903-0532
619-445-8352
www.chirp.org

CORONADO FLORAL ASSOCIATION
President: Leslie Crawford
P. O. Box 180188
Coronado, CA 92178-0188
619-435-8079
www.coronadofloralassoc.org

FRIENDS OF BALBOA PARK
2125 Park Boulevard
San Diego, CA 92101
619-232-2282
www.friendsofbalboapark.org

FRIENDS OF THE HORTENSE MILLER GARDEN
P. O. Box 742
Laguna Beach, CA 92652-0742
Tour reservations: 949-497-0716
Information: 949-244-2010
www.hortensemillergarden.org

FRIENDS OF THE MARSTON HOUSE
c/o SOHO
2476 San Diego Ave.
San Diego, CA 92110
619-297-9327
www.marstonhouse.org
Friends@marstonhouse.org

JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP GARDEN BALBOA PARK
Contact: Luanne Kanzawa
2125 Park Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92101-4792
619-232-2721
www.niwa.org

PALOMAR DISTRICT CALIFORNIA GARDEN CLUBS, INC.
Director: George Speer
30861 Saddleback Rd.
Valley Center, CA 92082-3848
760-749-9608
palomardirector@aol.com
http://californiagardenclubs.com/palomardistrict

RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA LIBRARY
30902 La Promesa
Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688-2821
949-459-6094

SAN DIEGO BOTANIC GARDEN
Quail Botanical Gardens Foundation, Inc.
President/CEO: Julian Duval
P. O. Box 230005
Encinitas, CA 92023-0005
760-436-3036
www.SDBGarden.org

SAN DIEGO BOTANICAL GARDEN FOUNDATION
President: Ed Hamilton
2125 Park Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92101-4792
619-234-8901
www.sdbgf.org

SAN DIEGO ZOO
Horticulture Department
P. O. Box 120551
San Diego, CA 92112-0551
619-231-1515 Ext. 4298
www.sandiegozoo.org

SEAWORLD OF CALIFORNIA
500 Sea World Dr.
San Diego, CA 92109-7904
619-222-6363
www.seaworld.com/sandiego

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9005 Aero Drive
San Diego, CA 92123-2312
858-573-1396

SOUTHWESTERN JUDGES COUNCIL
Chair: Sandi Lord
P. O. Box 876
Pauma Valley, CA 92061-0876
760-727-7614

WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN
Executive Director: Marty Eberhardt
12122 Cuyamaca College Dr. West
El Cajon, CA 92019-4317
619-660-0614
info@thegarden.org
www.thegarden.org

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CLASSIC GARDENS
P. O. Box 2711
La Jolla, CA 92038-2711
858-459-0316

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San Diego, CA 92107-2423
619-223-5475

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www.grangettos.com

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4677 Overland Ave.
San Diego, CA 92123-1233
858-522-6600
www.sdcwa.org

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San Diego, CA 92129-1232
858-672-2454
www.bernardogardeners.org

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President: Lynne Batchelor
1165 Kosner Dr.
San Diego, CA 92154-3803
858-451-6764

CARLSBAD GARDEN CLUB
President: Gretchen Ashton
Publicity: Mary Hassing
P. O. Box 626
Carlsbad, CA 92008
760-494-7774
www.carlsbadgardenclub.com

CHULA VISTA GARDEN CLUB
President: Marilyn Saleny
P. O. Box 57
Chula Vista, CA 91912-1016
619-421-6072

CROWN GARDEN CLUB
President: Virginia Osgood
234 H Avenue
Coronado, CA 92118
619-435-1769
www.crowngardenclub.org

DOS VALLES GARDEN CLUB
President: Carol Curcio
P. O. Box 123
Valley Center, CA 92082
760-751-2226
www.dosvallesgardenclub.org

FALLBROOK GARDEN CLUB
Co-Presidents: Cecilia Taylor & Joy McCormack
P. O. Box 1702
Fallbrook, CA 92088-1702
760-451-3087
www.fallbrookgardenclub.org

LA JOLLA GARDEN CLUB
President: Anne Caprioglio
P. O. Box 2713
La Jolla, CA 92037
858-454-6227
acaprioglio@san.rr.com

MIRACOSTA HORT. CLUB OF OCEANSIDE
President: Louise Ortega
2232 San Remo Circle
Vista, CA 92084
760-598-6571
www.miracostahorticultureclub.shutterfly.com

MISSION HILLS GARDEN CLUB
President: Beverly Fritschner
3959 Bandini Street
San Diego, 92103
619-291-1700
www.missionhillsgardenclub.org

POINT LOMA GARDEN CLUB
President: Kathy Hargrove
3812 Haines Street
San Diego, CA 92109
858-483-2693
www.plgc.org

POWAY VALLEY GARDEN CLUB
President: Sharon Tooley
11375 Nawa Way
San Diego, CA 92129
858-672-2593
http://powayvalleygardenclub.org

RAMONA GARDEN CLUB
Co-presidents: Teri Schmidt and Carol Wilson
P. O. Box 1412
Ramona, CA 92065
Teri: 760-789-8774,
Carol: 760-788-9876
www.ramonagardenclub.com

RANCHO SAN DIEGO GARDEN CLUB
President: Helen Dizio
Contact: Connie Beck
1077 Vista Madera
El Cajon, CA 92019
619-749-4059

RANCHO SANTA FE GARDEN CLUB
President: Helen Dizio
P. O. Box 483
Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067-0483
858-756-1554
www.rsfgardenclub.org

SAN CARLOS GARDEN CLUB
President: Genny Deutsch
6796 Summit Ridge Way
San Diego, CA 92120
619-583-8008
Contact Genny Deutsch for meeting location

SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
President: Susi Torre-Bueno
P. O. Box 231869
Encinitas, CA 92023-1869
760-295-7089
www.sdhortsoc.org

SAN DIEGUITO GARDEN CLUB
President: Geri Thiroway
1105 Santa Madera Ct.
Solana Beach, CA 92075
858-755-3284
http://sdgc.klmmicro.com

TEMECULA VALLEY GARDEN CLUB
Co-Presidents: Sally Kirby and Starr Rausch
P. O. Box 1526
Temecula, CA 92593-1526
951-677-4895
www.temeculavalleygardenclub.org

VILLAGE GARDEN CLUB OF LA JOLLA
President: Nan Kaufman
4638 Alhambra St.
San Diego, CA 92107-4021
619-225-8349
www.villagegardencluboflajolla.com

VISTA GARDEN CLUB
President: Lynn Paine
P. O. Box 44
Vista, CA 92085-0044
760-724-1127
www.vistagardenclub.org

IKEBANA SCHOOLS

ICHIYO SCHOOL OF IKEBANA, SAN DIEGO CHAPTER
President: Deborah Warriner
633 Alameda Blvd.
Coronado, CA 92110
619-435-9712

IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL CHAPTER 119
President: Chris A. Bugarin
P. O. Box 211163
Chula Vista, CA 91921-1163
619-869-4622
chrisb1968@cox.net
http://ikebanasandiego.org

IKENOBO CHAPTER OF SAN DIEGO
President: Sadako Oehler
2822 Walker Dr.
San Diego, CA 92123-3056
858-278-5689

OHARA SCHOOL OF IKEBANA LA JOLLA CHAPTER
P. O. Box 195
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Master Instructor: Sumiko Lahey
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In Season

Here are some items that you may find being sold from the stalls at your local Farmers' Market in May and June. (For more information on San Diego County Farmers' Markets, visit www.sdfarmbureau.org.)

May: Avocados, basil, beets, broccoli, carrots, cauliflower, celery, chard, cherimoyas, corn, cucumbers, eggplant, grapefruit, grapes, green beans, guavas, herbs, kale, kiwi, lemons, lettuce, limes, melons, onions, peaches, peas, plums, potatoes, radishes, scallions, spinach, summer squash, strawberries, tangelos, tomatoes, white turnips, Valencia oranges and various cut flowers.

June: Avocados, basil, beets, blackberries, boysenberries, broccoli, cauliflower, celery, cherimoyas, corn, cucumbers, eggplant, grapes, grapefruit, green beans, guavas, herbs, lemons, limes, melons, onions, peaches, plums, potatoes, radishes, raspberries, scallions, summer squash, strawberries, tangelos, tomatoes, Valencia oranges and various cut flowers

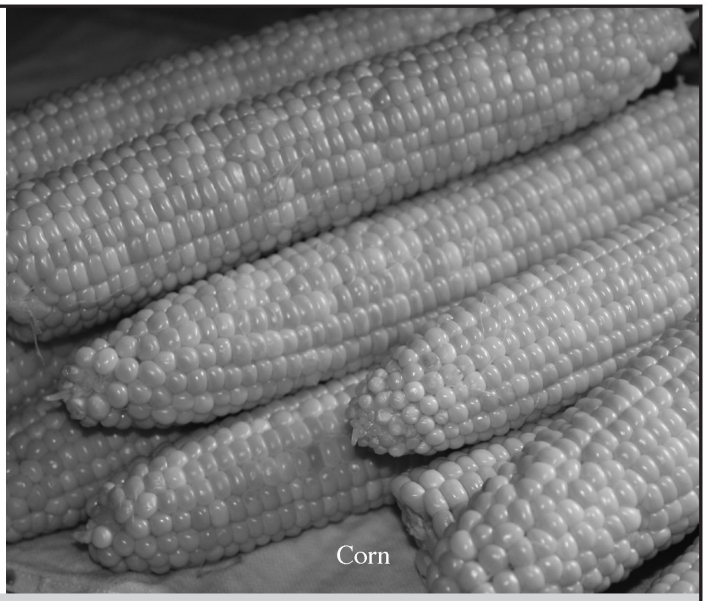

Corn

Photo: Rachel Cobb

Contact Us! Do you have an event, class or meeting that you'd like to let California Garden readers know about? If so, please email sdfloral@gmail.com or Denise Thompson at EarthD@san.rr.com with your group's name, the meeting date and time, meeting place, any applicable fees, event program and contact information. You may also submit the above information via regular mail, sent to Calendar Editor, San Diego Floral Association, 1650 El Prado Room 105, San Diego CA 92101. Space is limited, so please get in touch today to ensure inclusion! The deadline for the upcoming July/August 2011 issue is May 5, 2011; the deadline for the Sept./Oct. 2011 issue is July 5, 2011.

In 1968, public safety concerns closed Balboa Park's crumbling Food and Beverage Building, a survivor of the 1915 Exposition. When the replacement structure opened with the new name, Casa del Prado, the San Diego Floral Association and San Diego Botanical Garden Foundation celebrated a return to their Balboa Park headquarters with plant and floral exhibits. Floral designers exhibited some radical departures from tradition, according to this review. –Nancy Carol Carter

March-April 1972

Flower Arrangement is a Changing Art

By Dorothy Marx

The opening of Casa del Prado on November 14, 1971, brought out the best horticultural displays each plant society could offer anmany flower arrangements by San Diego artists whose medium is plant material.

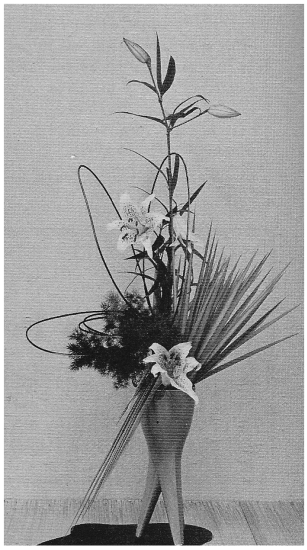
The unusual variation in arrangement styles and materials shows that this art is changing as rapidly as other phases of life today. Here, too, it is popular to scorn the traditional. The arranger "does her own thing."

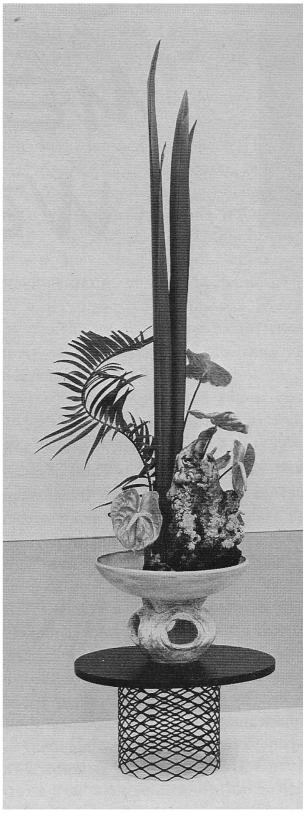
Little conscious effort is made to obey the principles of design, and those who discuss these guides seem dated. But no matter how unfettered the arranger, how unusual her combinations of material, or how 'far out" her container, the real artist will create a balanced arrangement which is well-propositioned and has satisfying accents and a feeling of movement (rhythm) . . . simply because she herself will not like a composition of 30 years ago.

Today we use color, texture, and space boldly. Contrasts are sharper. We use fewer flowers, which requires more skill, but we make larger and much, much taller arrangements. Distinction and originality, fine use of space created by skillful manipulation of material, and third-dimension are qualities more and more highly prized.

It is hard to believe that we were once taught not to combine chrysanthemums, associated with fall, with spring plant material or to combine native materials with exotics. . . . Today there are no "holds barred". . . .

Those of us who love the art of creating do not think of it as therapy, but we would admit there is excitement in finding something new and using it well, a tonic which can keep us young and happy. Probably there is no more pleasant way to achieve the creativity which is good for us and to escape from today's pressures than to take up flower arrangement as a hobby.





Thursday Family Fun Nights

Every Thursday, to 8 PM • June 2nd - September 1st

Summer evenings are a delightful way to enjoy the beautiful grounds of the San Diego Botanic Garden in Encinitas. The Garden will be open on Thursday evenings until 8 PM from Memorial Day to Labor Day. We will have activities for children every Thursday in the Hamilton Children's Garden from 4:30 – 6 pm and then entertainment in the Lawn Garden from 6 – 7 pm. Bring a blanket or low chair to sit on. Here is what we have lined up:

June 2, 6:00 – 7:00 PM
Hullabaloo

June 9, 6:00 – 7:00 PM
Avian Eyes Interactive Outreach

June 16, 6:00 – 7:00 PM
Clint Perry & The Boo Hoo Crew

June 23, 6:00 – 7:00 PM
Music from Ancient Homelands

June 30, 6:00 – 7:00 PM
Snap Tap -N Sing

July 7, 6:00 – 7:00 PM
Storytelling and Music from Africa

July 14, 6:00 – 7:00 pm
Hullabaloo

July 21, 6:00 – 7:00 pm
Clint Perry & The Boo Hoo Crew

July 28, 6:00 – 7:00 PM
Dance Around the World with Nikola Clay

August 4, 6:00 – 7:00 PM
Fabulously Funny Fairy Tales

August 11, 6:00 – 7:00 PM
Wild Wes

August 18, 6:00 – 7:00 pm
Avian Eyes Interactive Outreach

August 25, 6:00 – 7:00 PM
Hullabaloo

September 1, 6:00 – 7:00 PM
Miss Timmaris Time

Clint Perry & he Boo Hoo Crew

Dance Around the World

Music from Ancient Homelands

Hullabaloo

Snap Tap -N Sing

Avian Eyes Interactive Outreach

Wild Wes

San Diego BOTANIC GARDEN

San Diego Botanic Garden
230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas, CA 92024

www.SDBGarden.org

Cost: FREE with admission or membership
Entertainment is subject to change.

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